

DEL COURT

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ARLESTON • BARBUCCI

Enkhö



EKHO
Paris

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EKHO IS THE EARTH, EXCEPT IT'S NOT.



Here we find the same cities, the same countries, but everything's different - it's a world without electricity. One may be born here, or brought in from Earth by some funny little creatures, the Preshauns. Nobody knows exactly what the Preshauns want...



But Fourmille and Youri's arrival is going to upset the balance kept by the Preshauns. Possessed by ghosts, Fourmille must solve their problems in order to go back to being herself again... For when she changes hairstyle, it's a sign she is inhabited by another personality...



FOURMILLE GRATULE

was flying to New York when she tumbled on Ekho. An inheritance was waiting for her and she's now the head of a talent agency.



YURI PODROV

a computer guy, was Fourmille's seat-mate on the plane. He's been accidentally dragged to Ekho with her. Usually their personalities are hardly compatible.



GRACE LUMUMBA

she is a native to Ekho. Loyal secretary of the Gratule Agency. In her spare time she's Yumma the stripper.



SIGISBERT DE MOTAFIUME

this Preshaun is a young clerk. His mission is to make sure that the presence of Fourmille and Youri doesn't affect the delicate balance of the mirror world too much!



THE PRESHAUNS

are strange and well mannered little creatures who ensure the proper functioning of Ekho; by using strange machines, they keep what they call the Thaumic equilibrium. They have to drink tea at specific times of the day, otherwise they might turn into dreadful, out of control, monsters!

NEW YORK LOOKS A BIT DIFFERENT, ON EXHO. DRAGONS REPLACE HELICOPTERS AND THE SKYSCRAPERS LOOK SOMEWHAT LIKE DUNGEONS, BUT I'M GETTING USED TO IT.

NEW YORK STILL IS NEW YORK, EVEN WITHOUT ELECTRICITY AND TECHNOLOGY. AND I FOURMILLE GRATULE, IN THIS WORLD AS IN THE OTHER, MUST FACE MY EVERYDAY LIFE ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M BROKE?

THE COFFERS ARE EMPTY. WE ARE TWO MONTHS LATE ON THE RENT AND I HAVEN'T BEEN PAID SINCE... PFEW. TOO LONG!

I THOUGHT THE AGENCY WAS WORKING FINE?

WE HAVE A LOT OF ARTISTS UNDER CONTRACT! WE GET 15% ON EACH ONE! WE'RE MAKING MONEY, AREN'T WE?

NOT THAT MUCH. FEES ARE MISERABLE THESE DAYS, AND WE'RE LACKING STARS.

WE COULD GO HUNTING AGAIN IN CENTRAL PARK, BUT IT ISN'T EASY!

PFFFF!

WE HAD A BIG CONTRACT IN PARIS, BUT THAT'S NO LONGER AN OPTION...

WHY?

AFTERN EXCLUSIVE DAYS AT THE POUJAIN ROUGE* FOR YUMMY AND YUMMA... BUT YUMMY IS IN JAIL!



*LITERALLY, RED COLT. IT'S A PUN ON THE FAMOUS MOULIN ROUGE. (T/N)

OH, RIGHT.



LOOK, I'M WILLING TO GO LOOKING FOR ANOTHER JOB, BUT YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME...



THE FRESHAINS STRICTLY FORBID US TO BE AWAY FROM EACH OTHER FOR TOO LONG.

STUPID FRESHAINS!



AND WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO THEM, HUH? AFTER ALL THEY'RE JUST CHIPMUNKS IN SILLY CLOTHES!

TSK TSK...

HOW BIG IS THE CONTRACT IN PARIS?

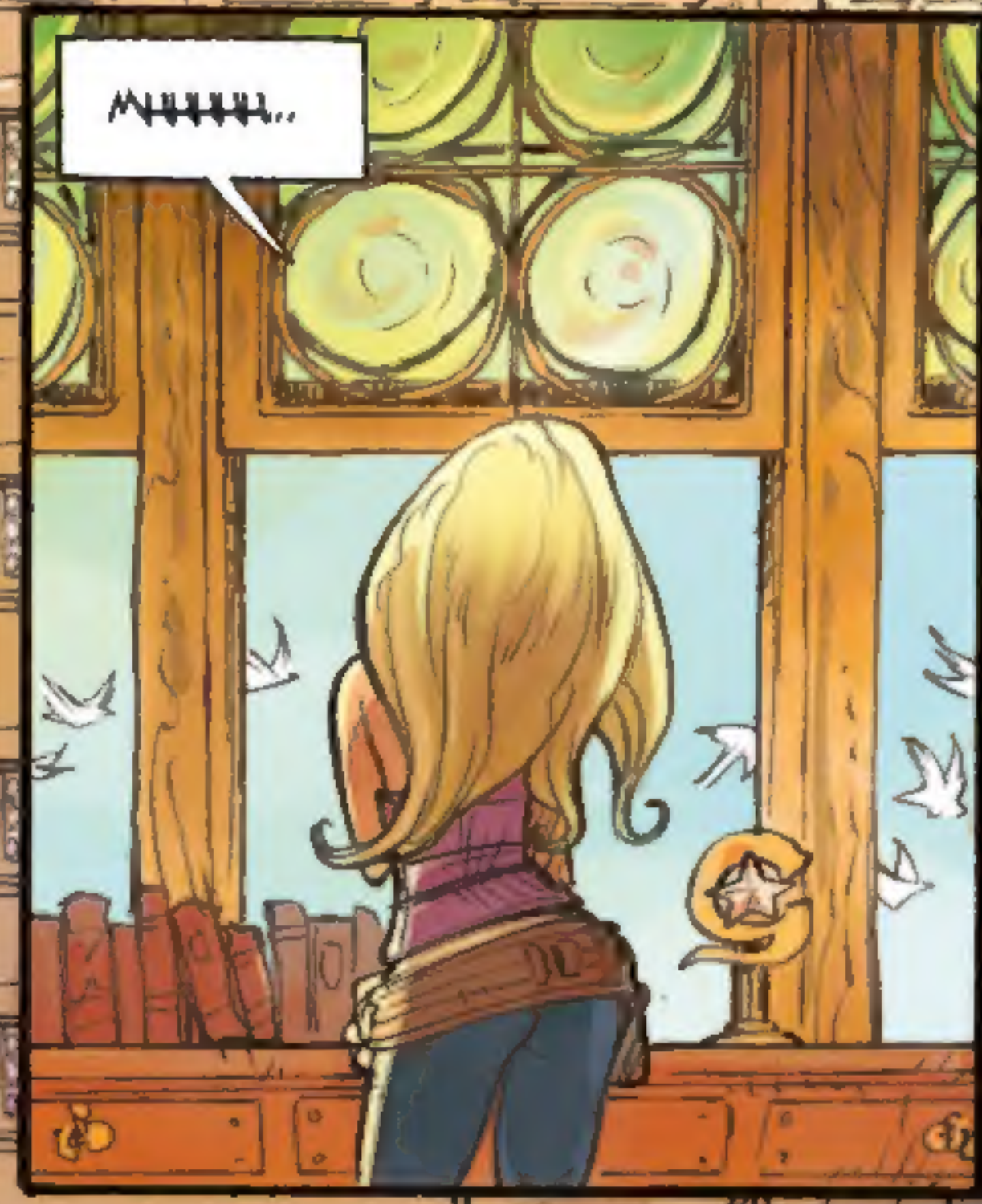
ENOUGH TO COVER US FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

YOU'RE NOT ON EARTH ANYMORE, YOU'RE ON EXO. HERE THE FRESHAINS ARE KEEPING THE BALANCE. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS TO DISOBEY THEM.

I KNOW, I KNOW...



MMMM...



SEND A PIGEON. WE'RE GOING TO HONOR THIS CONTRACT.



WITHOUT YUMMY?



I'LL DO IT.

YOU???



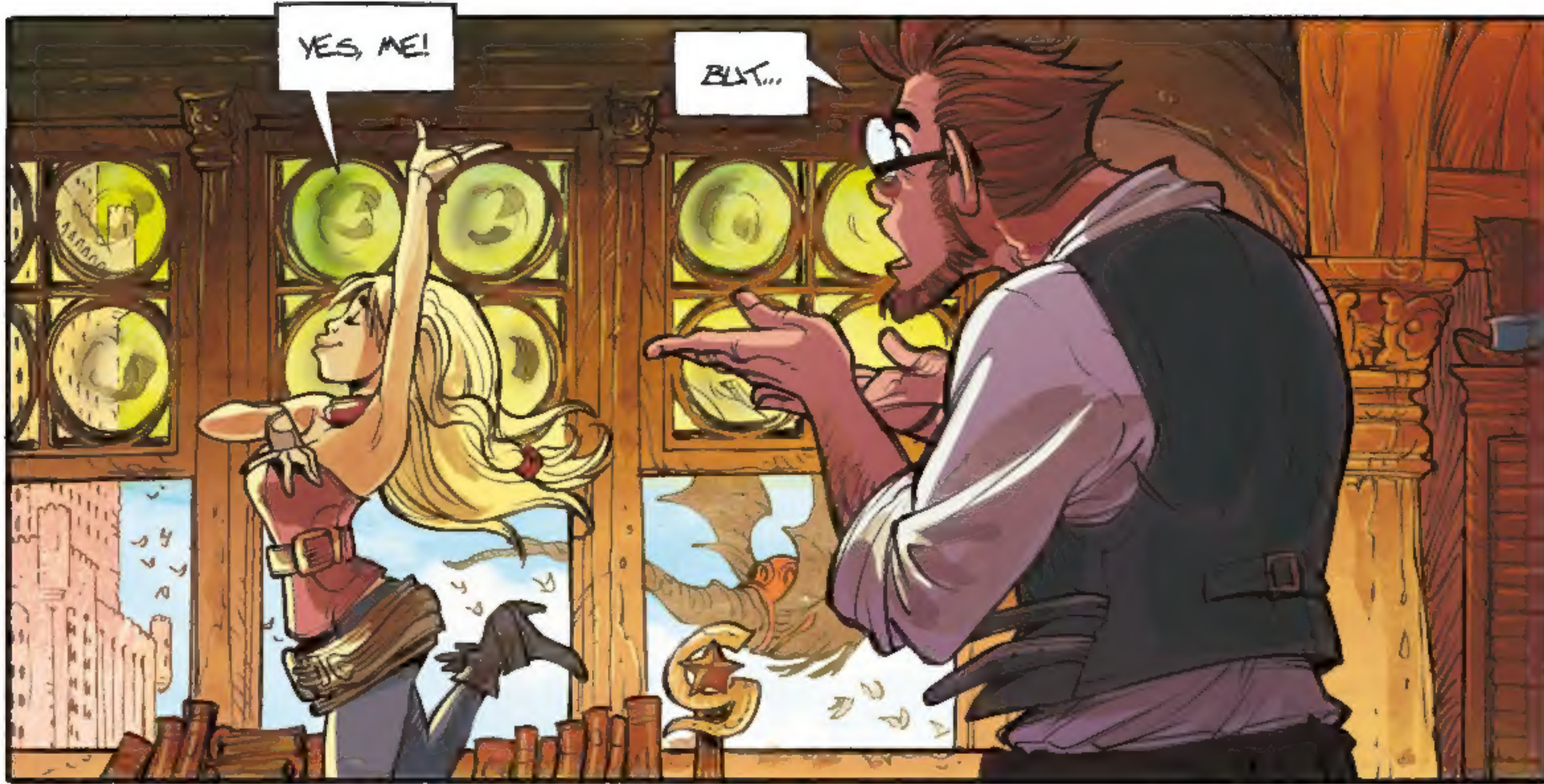
THE OS EPIC

ERWV THEA

CONCERT BOX

LIP ONE

DALL

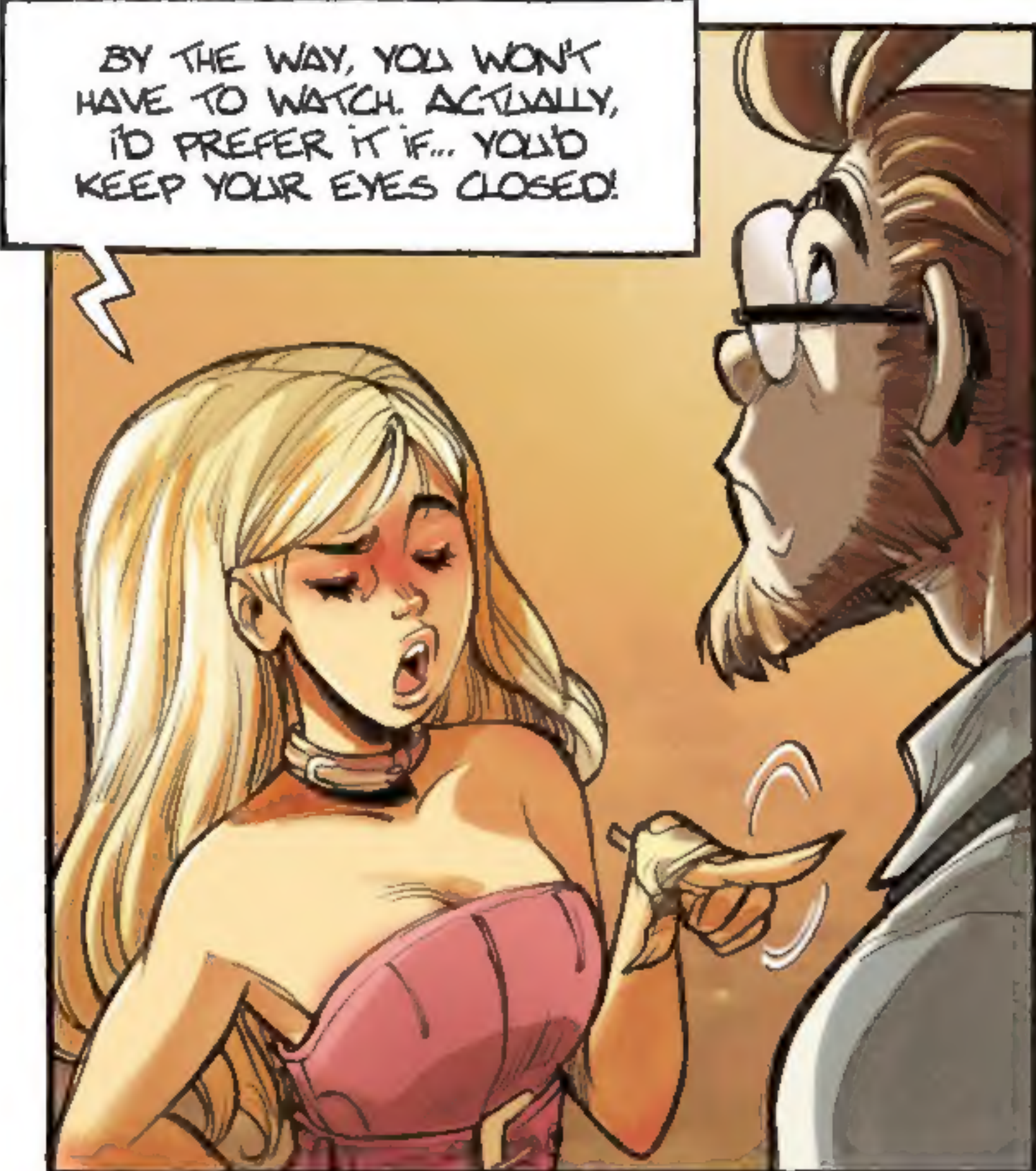


YES ME!

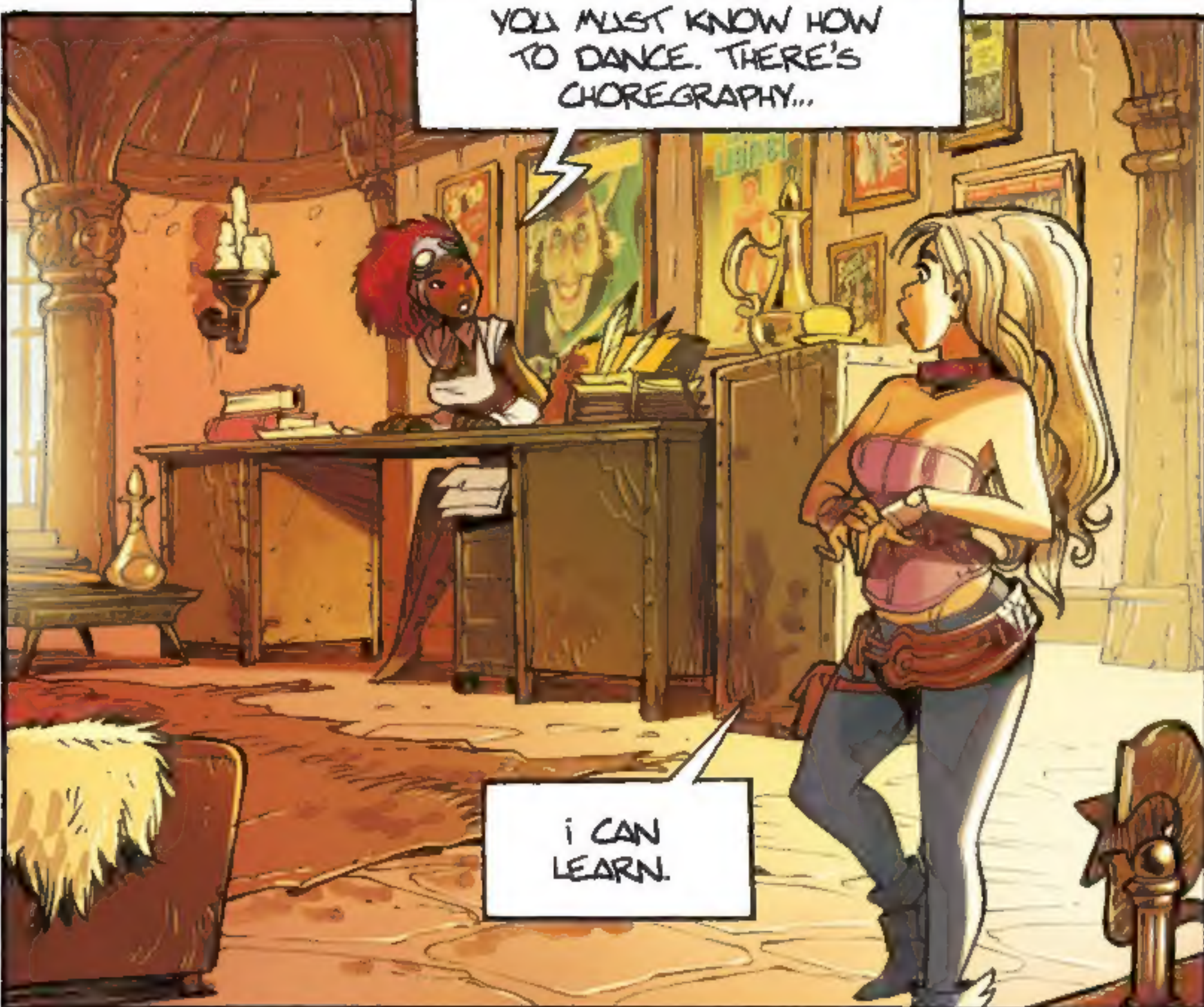
BUT...

BUT WHAT? YOU THINK I'M TOO LUGLY TO BE A STRIPPER?

HEY, NOT AT ALL! ON THE CONTRARY! IT'S JUST THAT...



BY THE WAY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WATCH. ACTUALLY, I'D PREFER IT IF... YOU'D KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED!

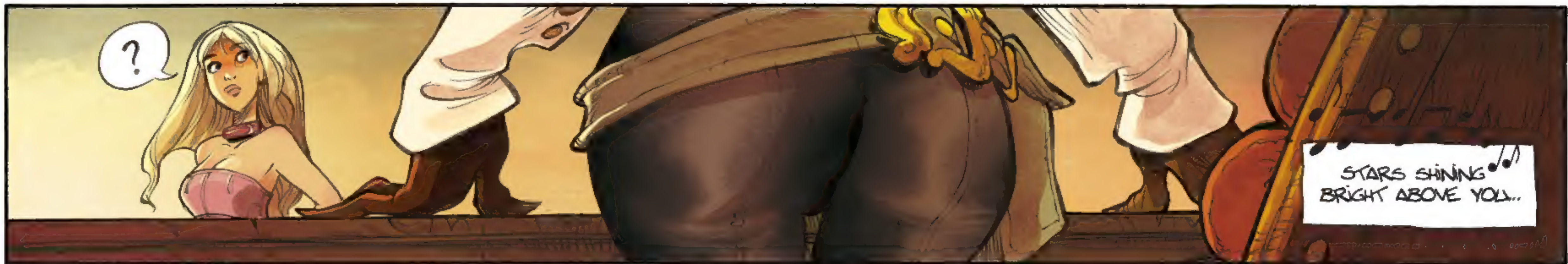


YOU MUST KNOW HOW TO DANCE. THERE'S CHOREOGRAPHY...

I CAN LEARN.



MMH...



?

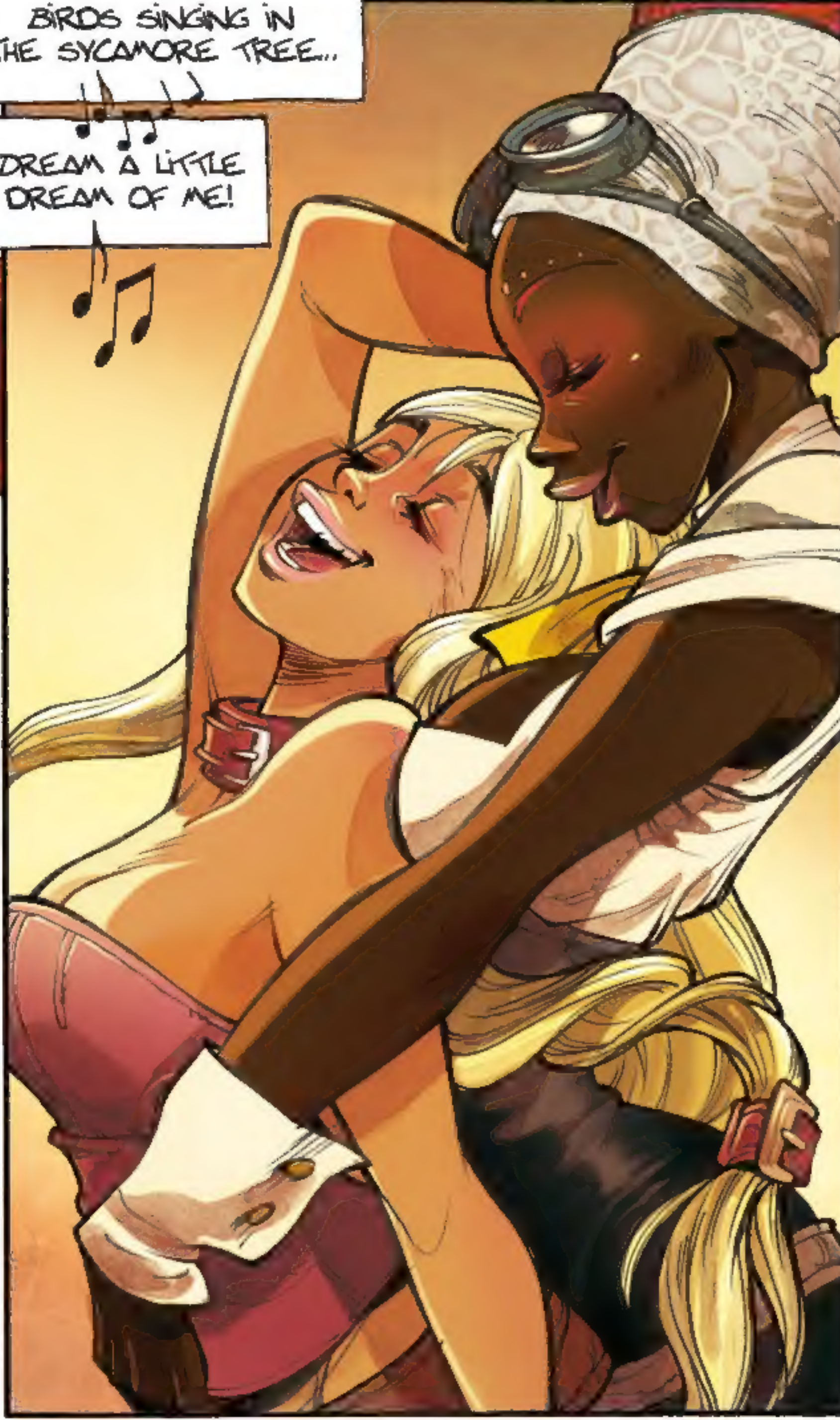
STARS SHINING BRIGHT ABOVE YOU...



NIGHT BREEZES SEEM TO WHISPER "I LOVE YOU"...

BIRDS SINGING IN THE SYCAMORE TREE...

DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME!



GREAT! WE'RE GOING TO PARIS!

WHERE DID YOUR GO?



TO PUT HIS HEAD IN A BUCKET OF COLD WATER, I THINK



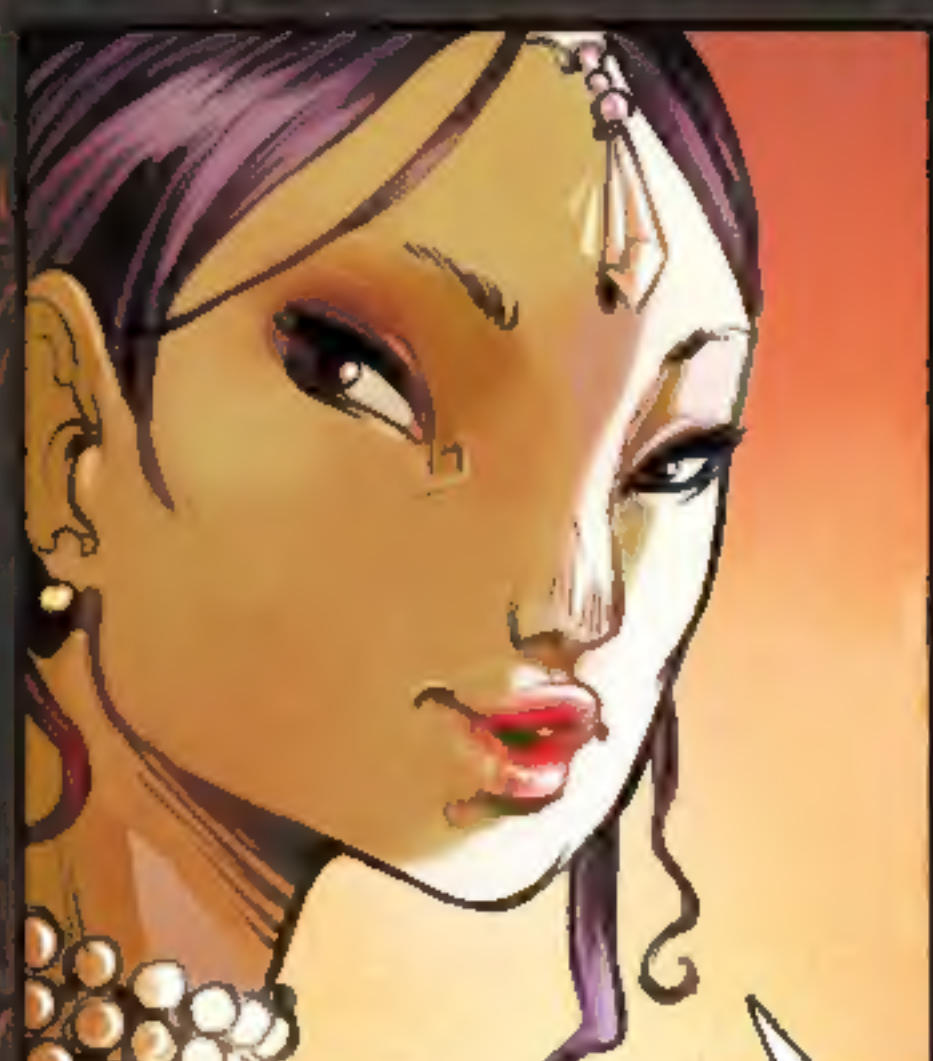
I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN PARIS, A FEW WEEKS EARLIER.

HE INSISTS ON SEEING YOU, YOUR MAJESTY..



HE IS IN THE BAR LOUNGE.

WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, MY DEAR?



ANYONE, YOU'RE THE CROWN PRINCE. YOU'LL SOON BE THE EMPEROR OF FRANCE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF!



AH!



YOU AGAIN?

LOOK, THIS TIME I HAVE PROOF!



WILL YOU TELL THE EMPEROR?



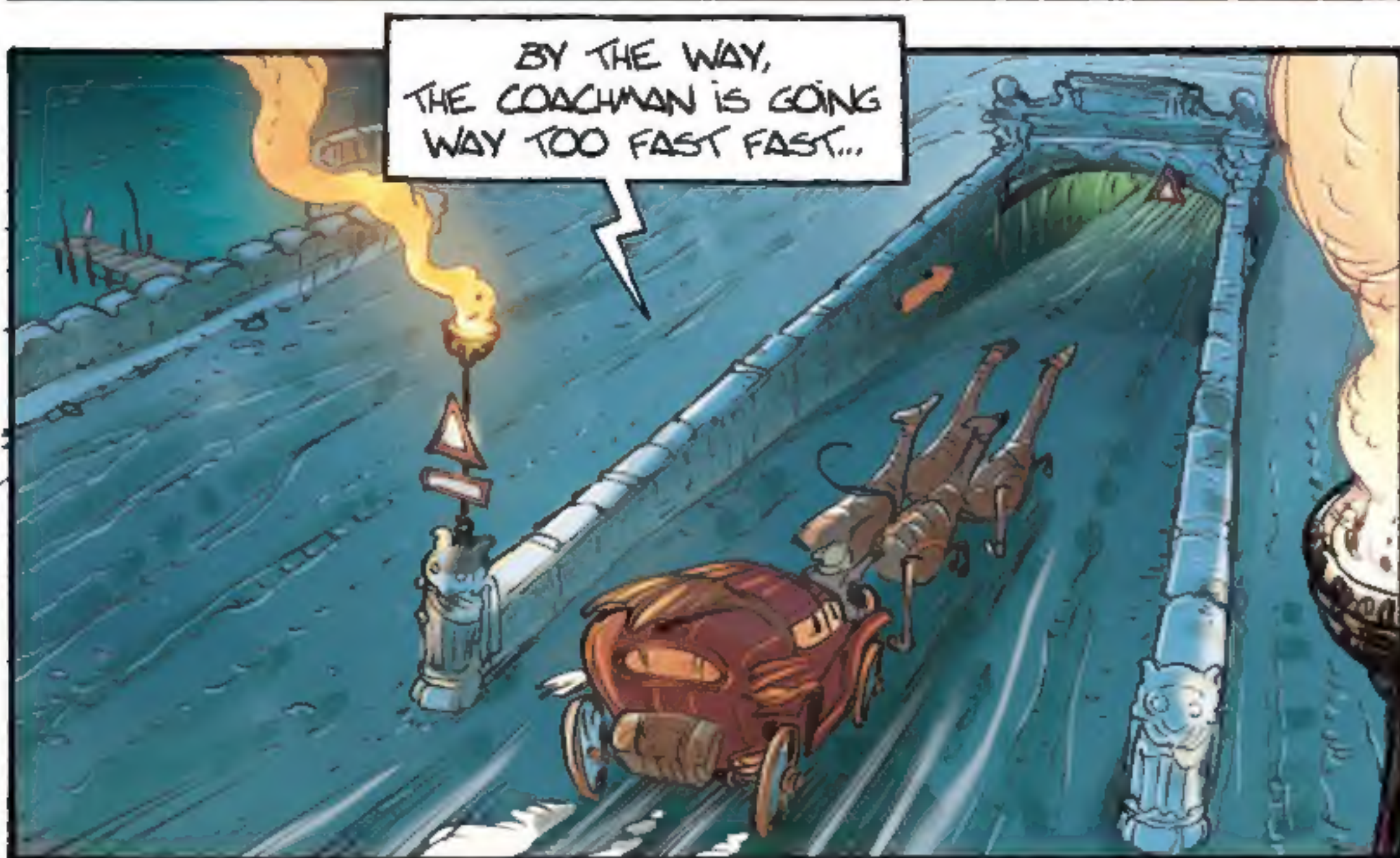
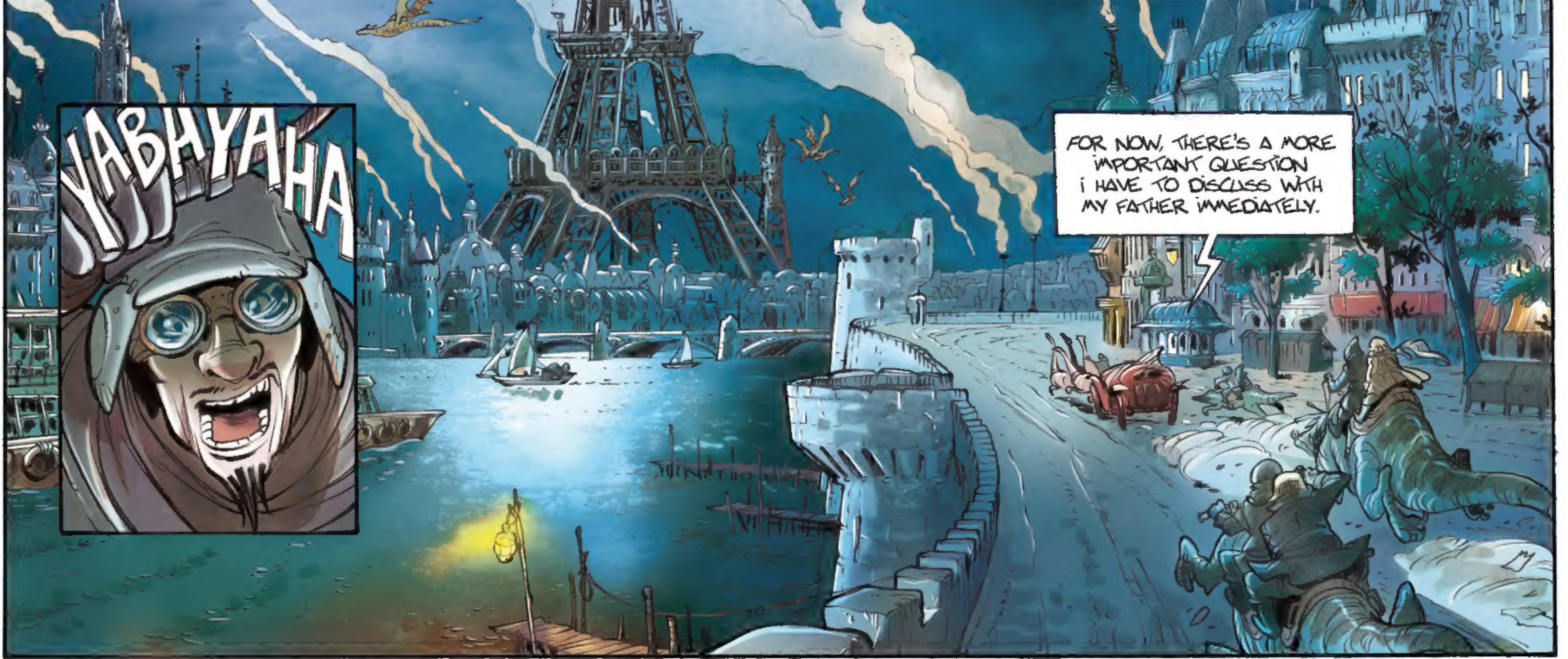
HORNPAUNCHER! THIS IS SERIOUS!

I'M GOING TO THE PALACE IMMEDIATELY!

THERE THEY ARE!

LE RITZ





LAST TIME I'VE LEFT ROISSY, IT WAS ON A 747 BOEING, AND THE AIRPORT WAS NAMED AFTER CHARLES DE GAULLE.

NOW I WAS LANDING AT ROISSY-EMPIRE, IN THE REAR POD OF AIR FRANCE'S MORNING DRAGON OUT OF NEW YORK

OUCH! YOUR SHOULDER'S IN MY EAR!

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO BOUGHT SUPER-ECONOMY TICKETS.

WE'RE BROKE, WE HAD NO CHOICE.

WHAILE IN THE FRONT POD...

WE'VE ARRIVED, MASTER MOTAFLAME.

GOOD, GOOD.

FEELS GOOD TO STRETCH!

FINALLY! YOU TOOK YOUR TIME TO DISEMBARK!

BUT...

A FRESHAIN DOESN'T NEED TO JUSTIFY HIS PRESENCE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE??

ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW US WHEREVER WE GO?

A FRESHAIN DOESN'T NEED TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS.

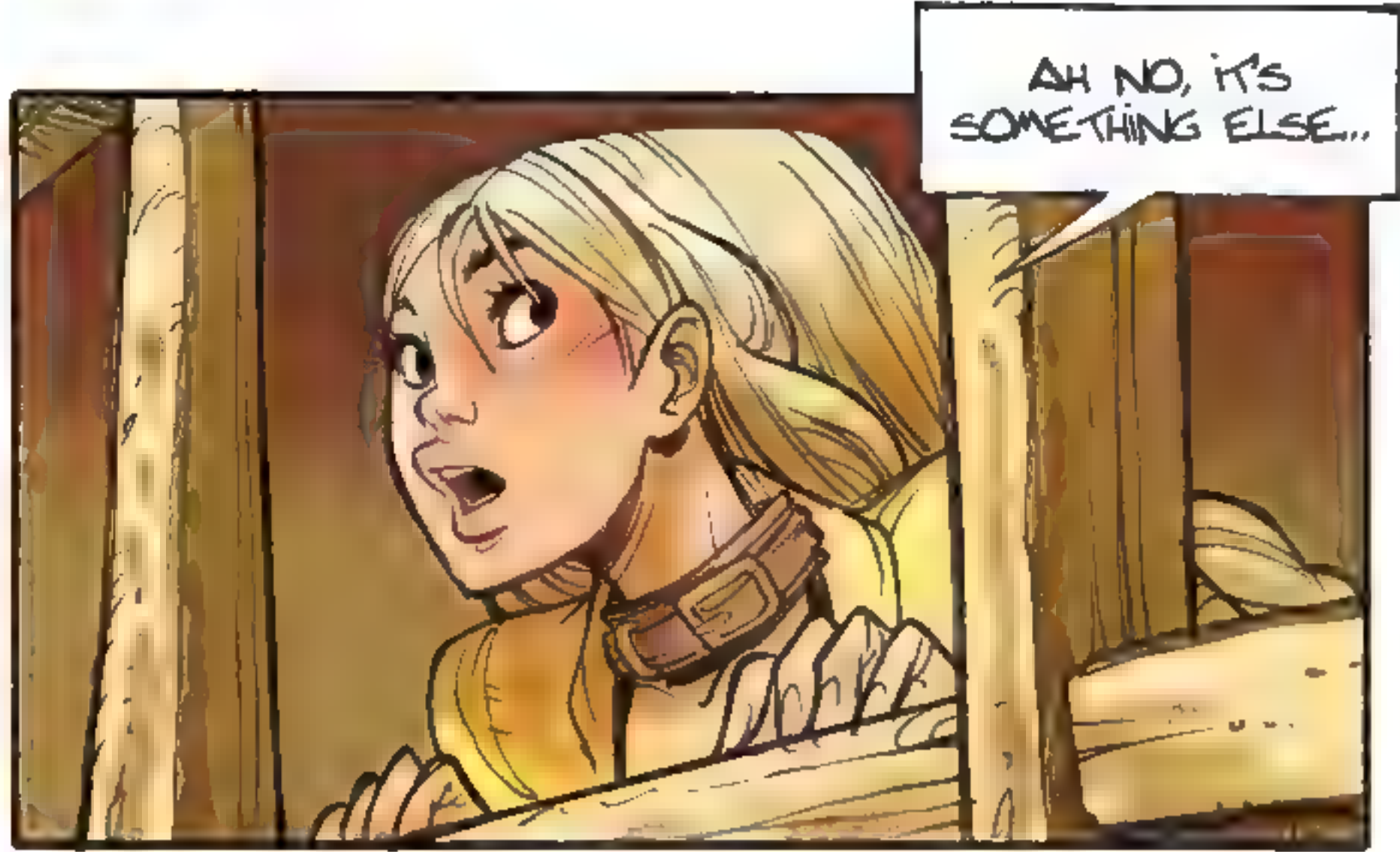
WHAT IF WE TIE YOU TO AN ANVIL AND THROW YOU IN THE SEINE RIVER?

A FRESHAIN DOESN'T NEED TO BE TIED TO A MASS OF METAL AND THROWN IN A RIVER

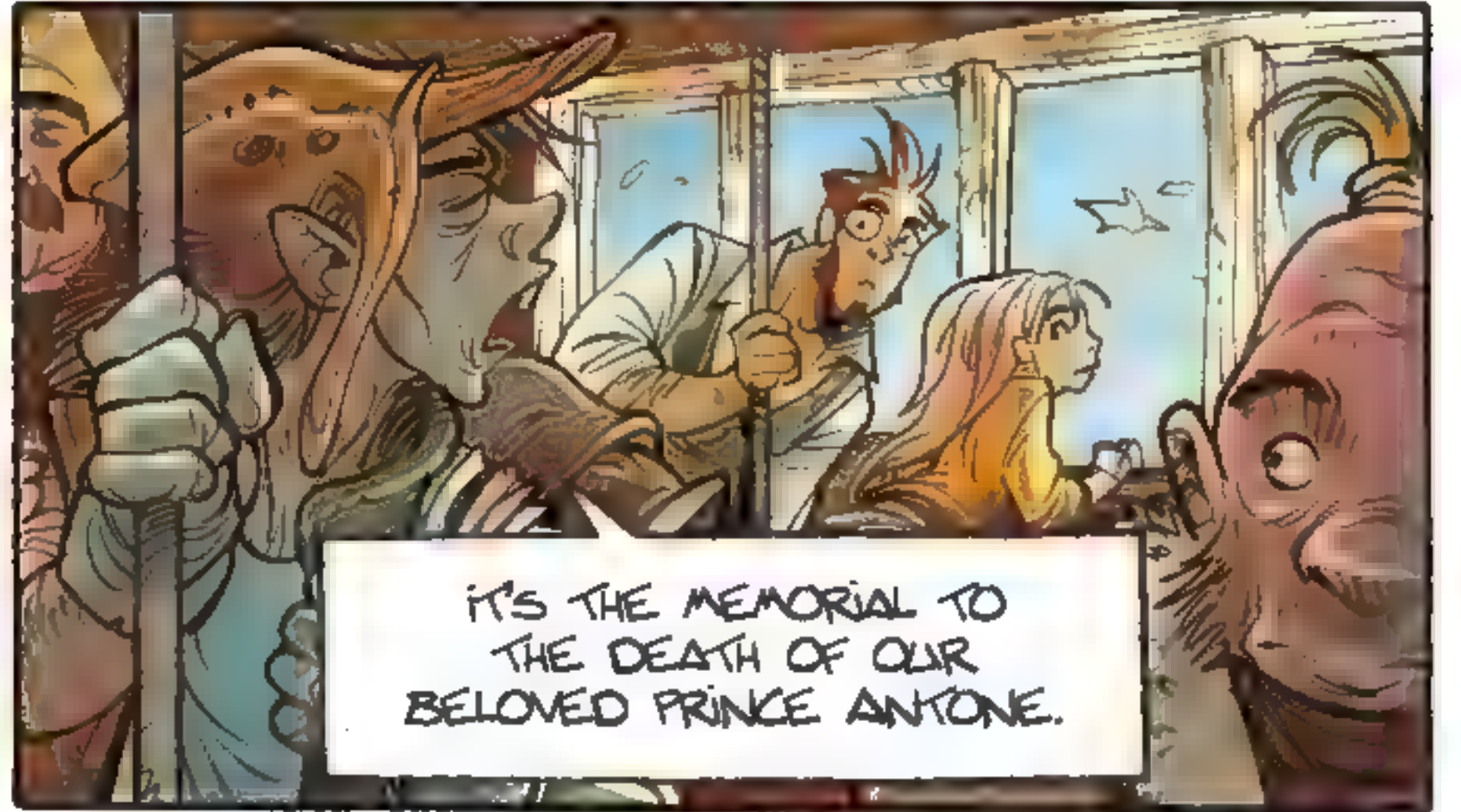
BACK TO PARIS! WHAT A STRANGE FEELING!
A CITY SO DIFFERENT, AND SO SIMILAR AT
ONCE.

SHOULD I DARE TO
TAKE A LOOK AT RUE
DE SÈVIGNÉ WHERE
I USED TO LIVE?
MAYBE BEST NOT...

NO WAY! THERE'S
A LADY D
MEMORIAL HERE
TOO???



AH NO, IT'S
SOMETHING ELSE...



IT'S THE MEMORIAL TO
THE DEATH OF OUR
BELOVED PRINCE ANTOINE.



AH? HEM...

YES, THOSE SCAVENGER-
JOURNALISTS HAVE...

BUT, I'M NOT
DEAD!



WHAT AM I DOING IN
THIS CROWD? WHERE
IS MY CARRIAGE?

OH NO! HERE
WE GO AGAIN!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S YOU'RE
PLAYING AT, MISS, BUT IT'S NOT
A GOOD IDEA TO JOKE ABOUT
THE DEATH OF OUR PRINCE!

MISTER...



IT MIGHT BE BETTER
IF YOU STOP HERE,
OLD BOY...



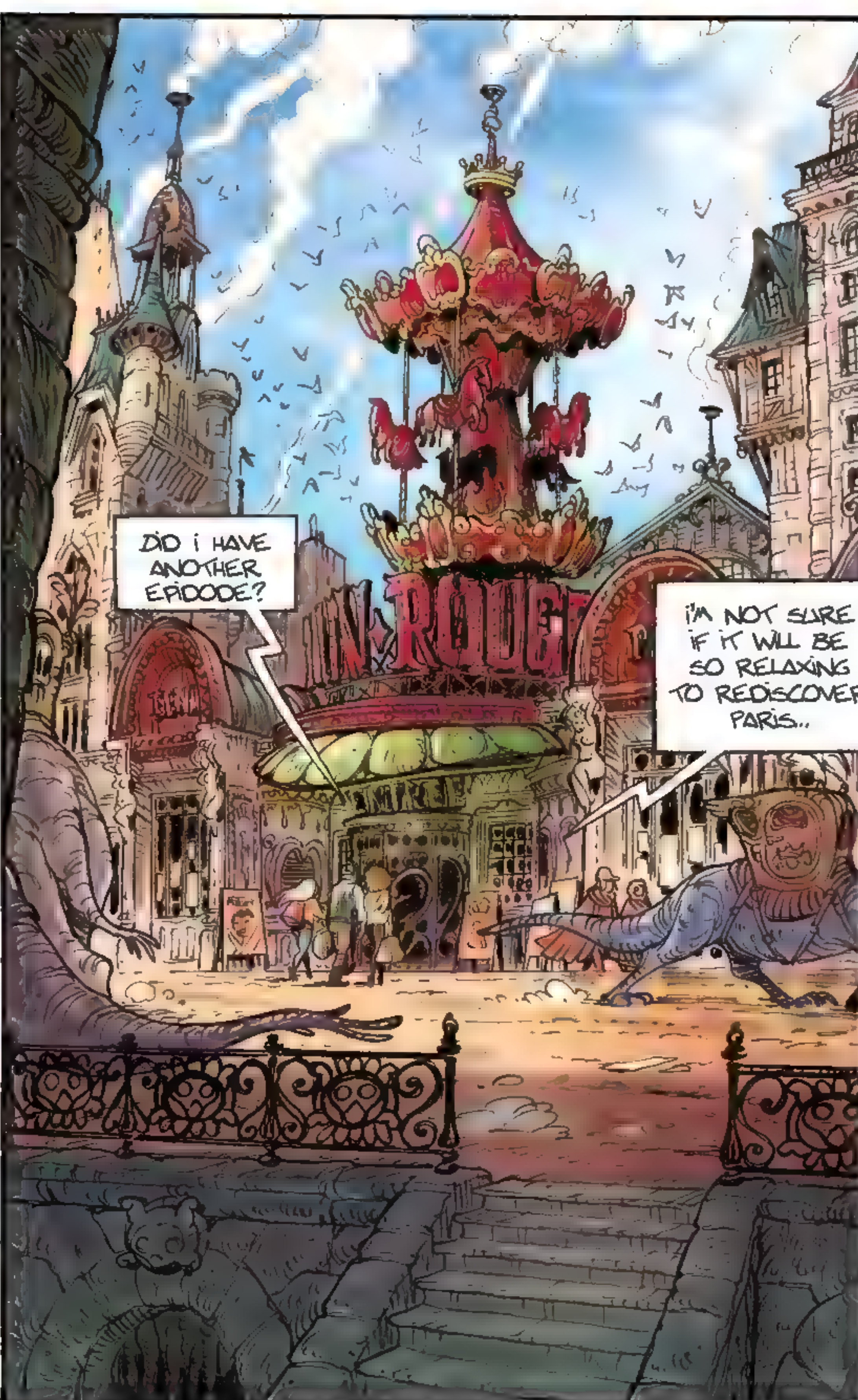
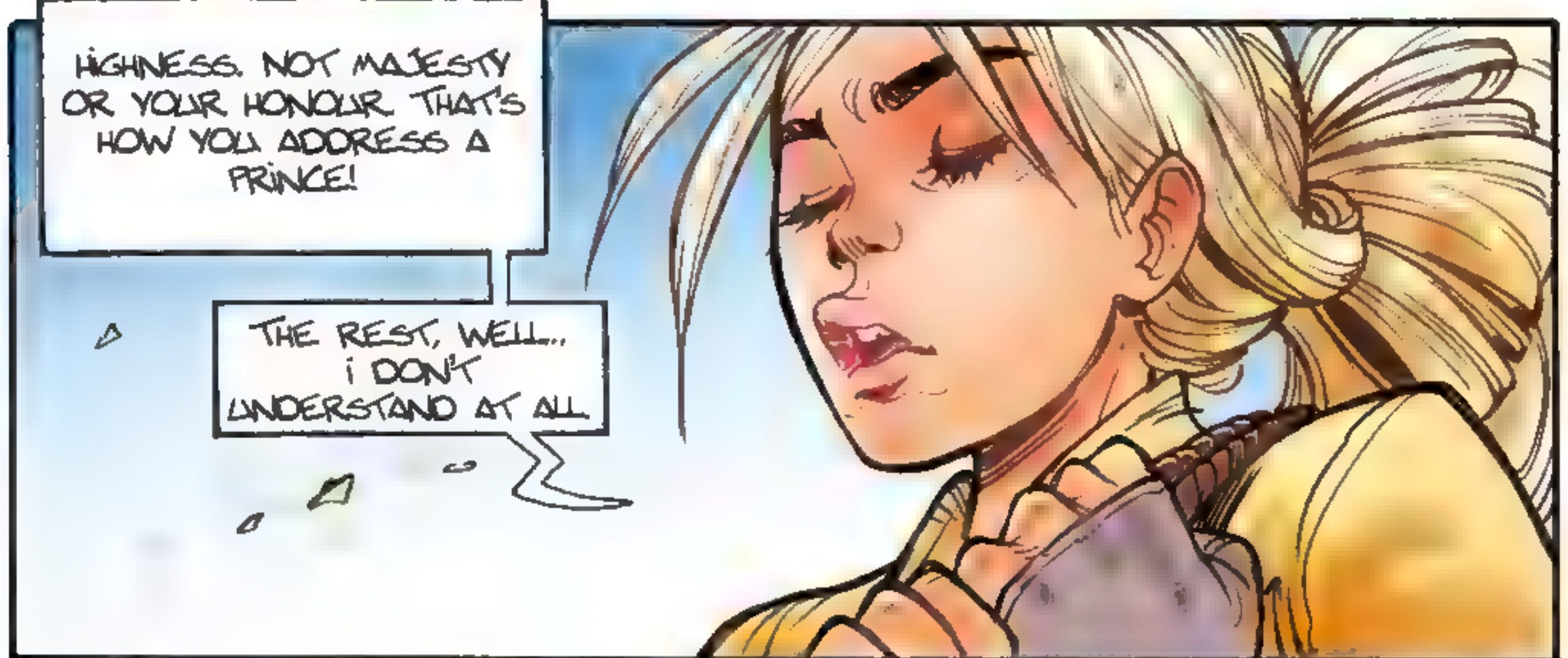
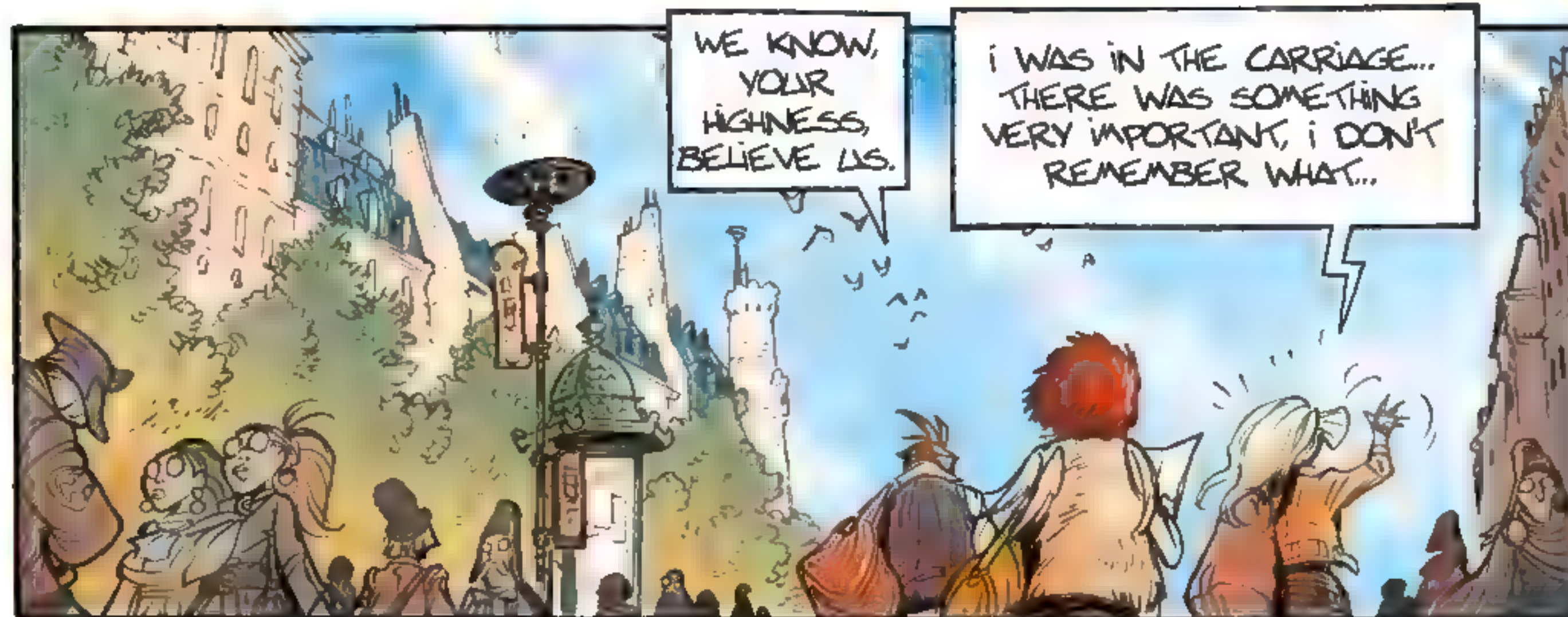
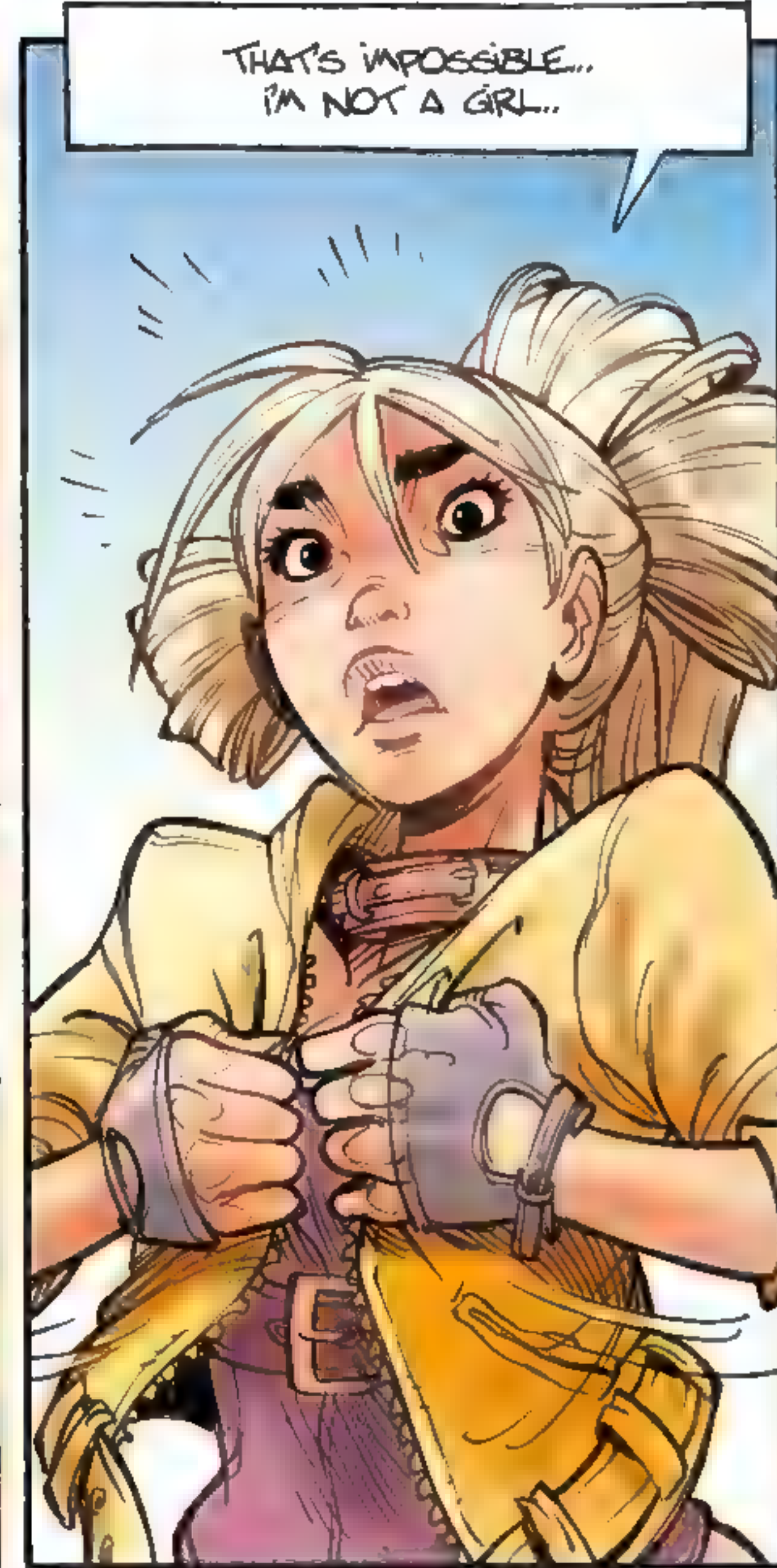
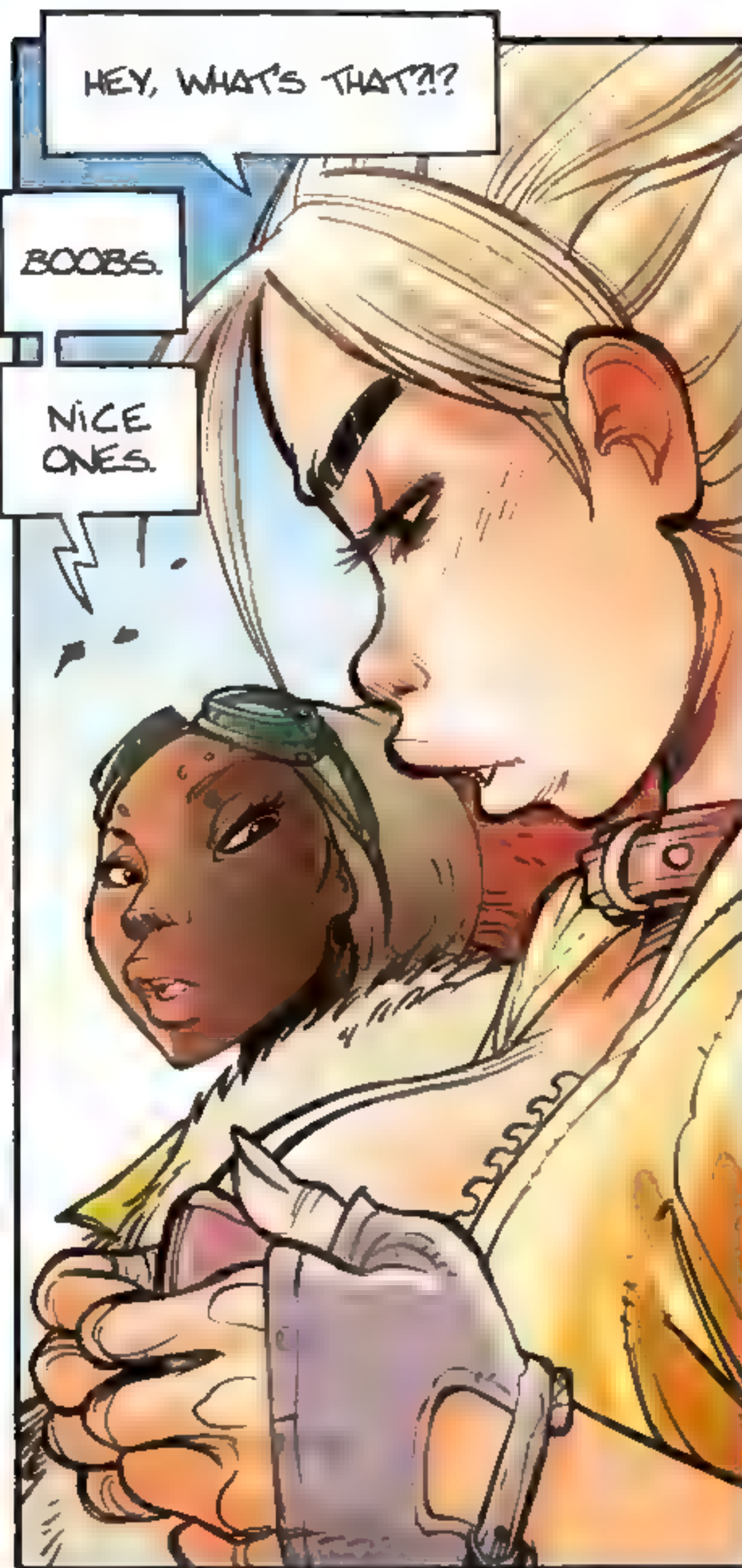
THINK
HUGNE
GNIIIIIIII



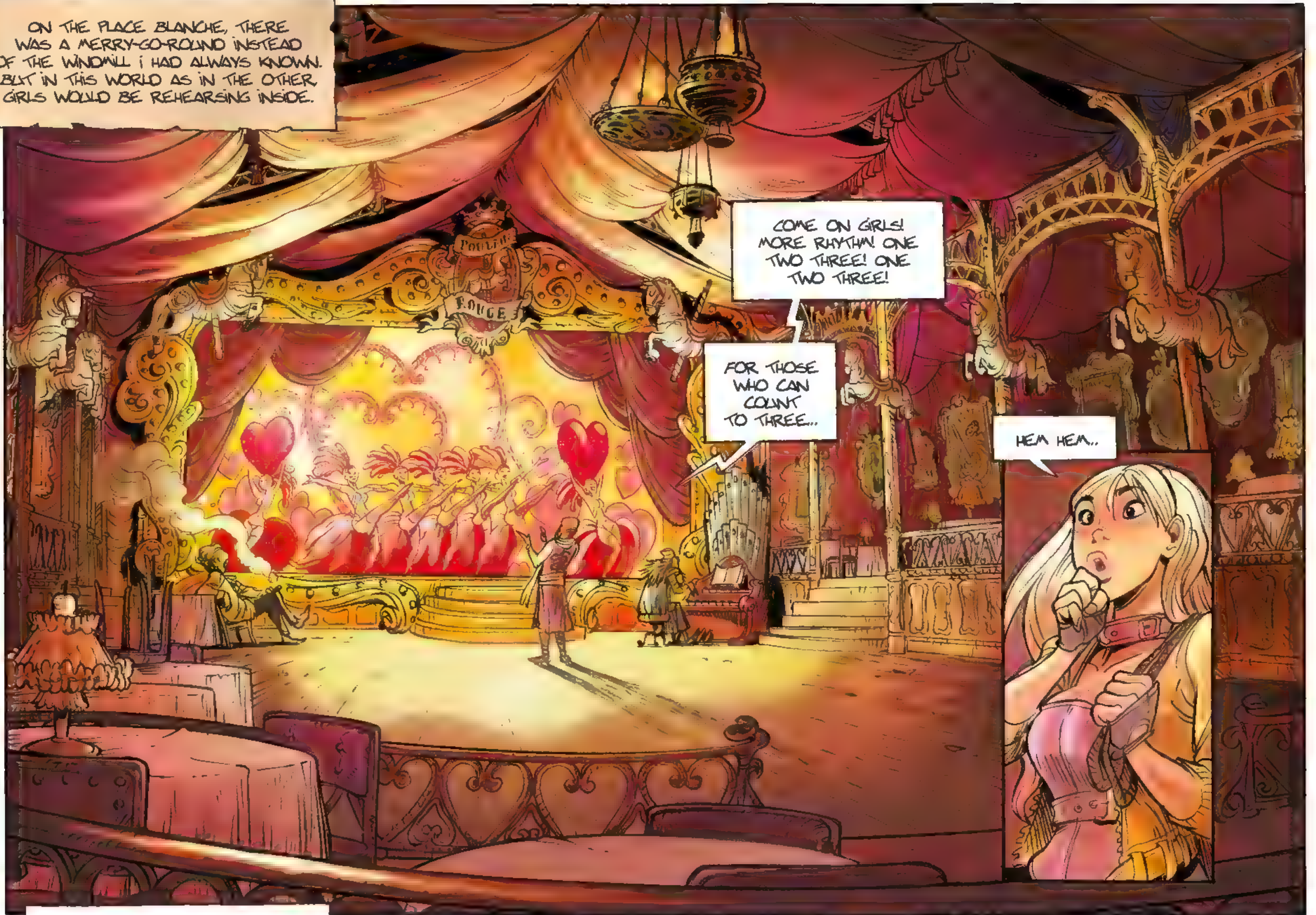
THIS WAY, YOUR
HIGHNESS!

THAT GUY OWES
ME AN APOLOGY!

GET LOST,
WEIRDO!



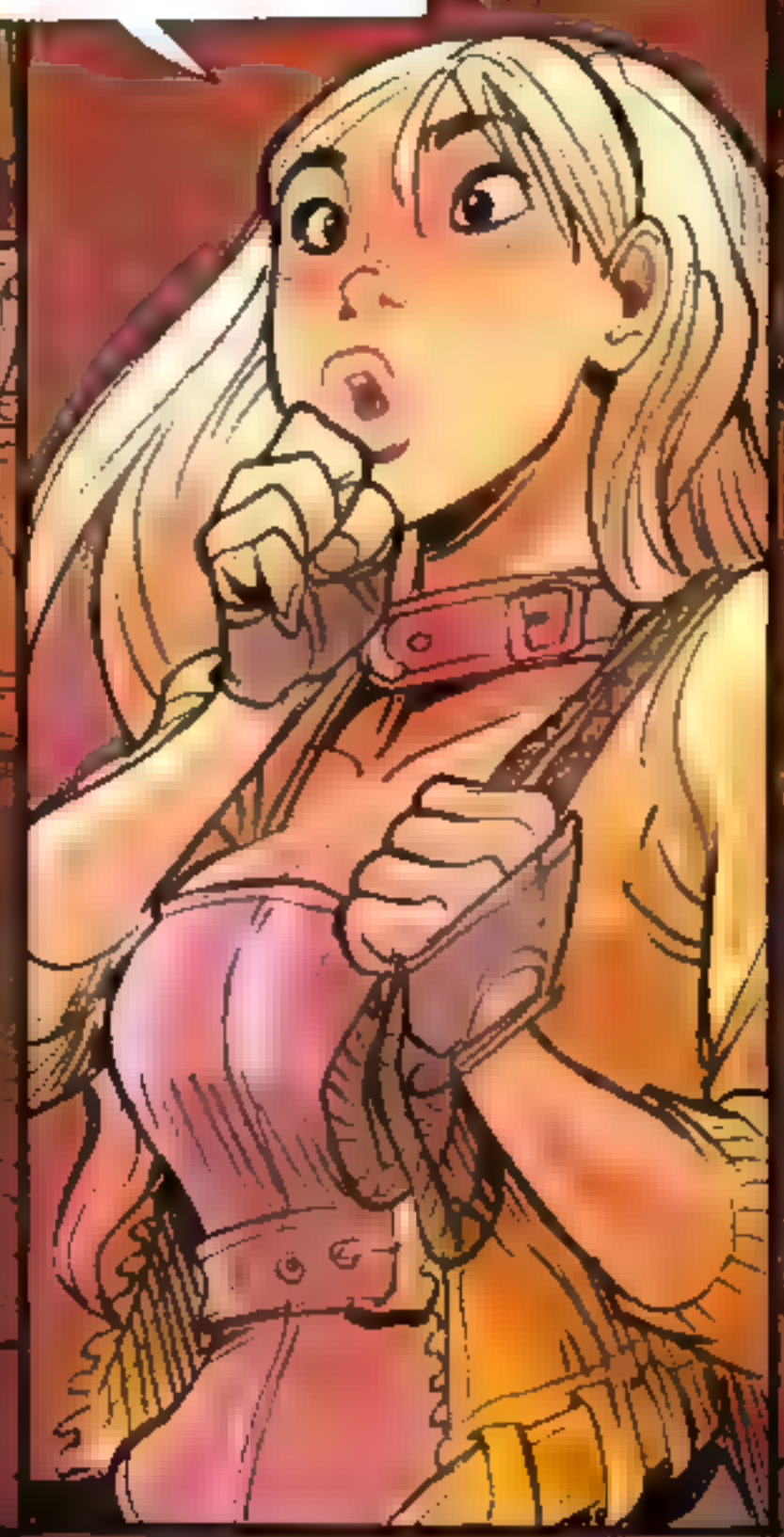
ON THE PLACE BLANCHE, THERE WAS A MERRY-GO-ROUND INSTEAD OF THE WINDMILL I HAD ALWAYS KNOWN. BUT IN THIS WORLD AS IN THE OTHER, GIRLS WOULD BE REHEARSING INSIDE.



COME ON GIRLS!
MORE RHYTHM! ONE
TWO THREE! ONE
TWO THREE!

FOR THOSE
WHO CAN
COUNT
TO THREE...

HEM HEM...



WHO LET YOU IN... AHHH!
HERE ARE OUR STARS!



YUMMY AND YUMMY! THE HITS OF
THE SHOW. OVER HERE, DARLINGS!



DAMON KLEERGF, OWNER
AND CHOREOGRAPHER OF
THE POLLAINE ROLGEL

YUMMY NICE
TO MEET
YOU



DID YOU ADD A BOY TO YOUR
COREOGRAPHY? WHAT AN IDEA!

I'M
YUMMY...

ISN'T HE TOO OLD
TO DANCE? STILL
FLEXIBLE? MHH?



I AM THEIR AGENT.
YURI... HUM... GRATULE.

BY THE WAY, WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE CONTRACT.

THE SUM YOU MENTIONED, IT'S THE ADVANCE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL, RIGHT?

YURI, LISTEN..

LATER, YUMMY. YOU TAKE CARE OF THE DANCING AND LEAVE THE GROWNUPS TALK BUSINESS.

YES, WE'RE WAITING FOR PAYMENT OF THE 20% ADVANCE...

WHAT?

20%?? HELL NO! I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE TOTAL AMOUNT!

HAHA! I LOVE PARISIAN HUMOR! DID YOU KNOW WE REFUSED A VERY GENEROUS OFFER FROM THE MUMMIES-BERGERS?

IS OUR SUITE AT THE GEORGES READY?

HUMPH!

LISTEN, BUDDY, I THINK THERE'S A MISUNDERSTANDING!

THEY'D LOOK GREAT AS MUMMIES, WITH THEIR BANDAGES AND ALL..

ARE THEY THAT EXTRAORDINARY?

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY IN NEW YORK

THAT FACE... ??

DON'T HAGGLE OVER THE FEES. THIS EVENT MUST BE UNFORGETTABLE. THE EMPEROR HIMSELF WILL BE THERE. IT'S OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MY CORPORATION.

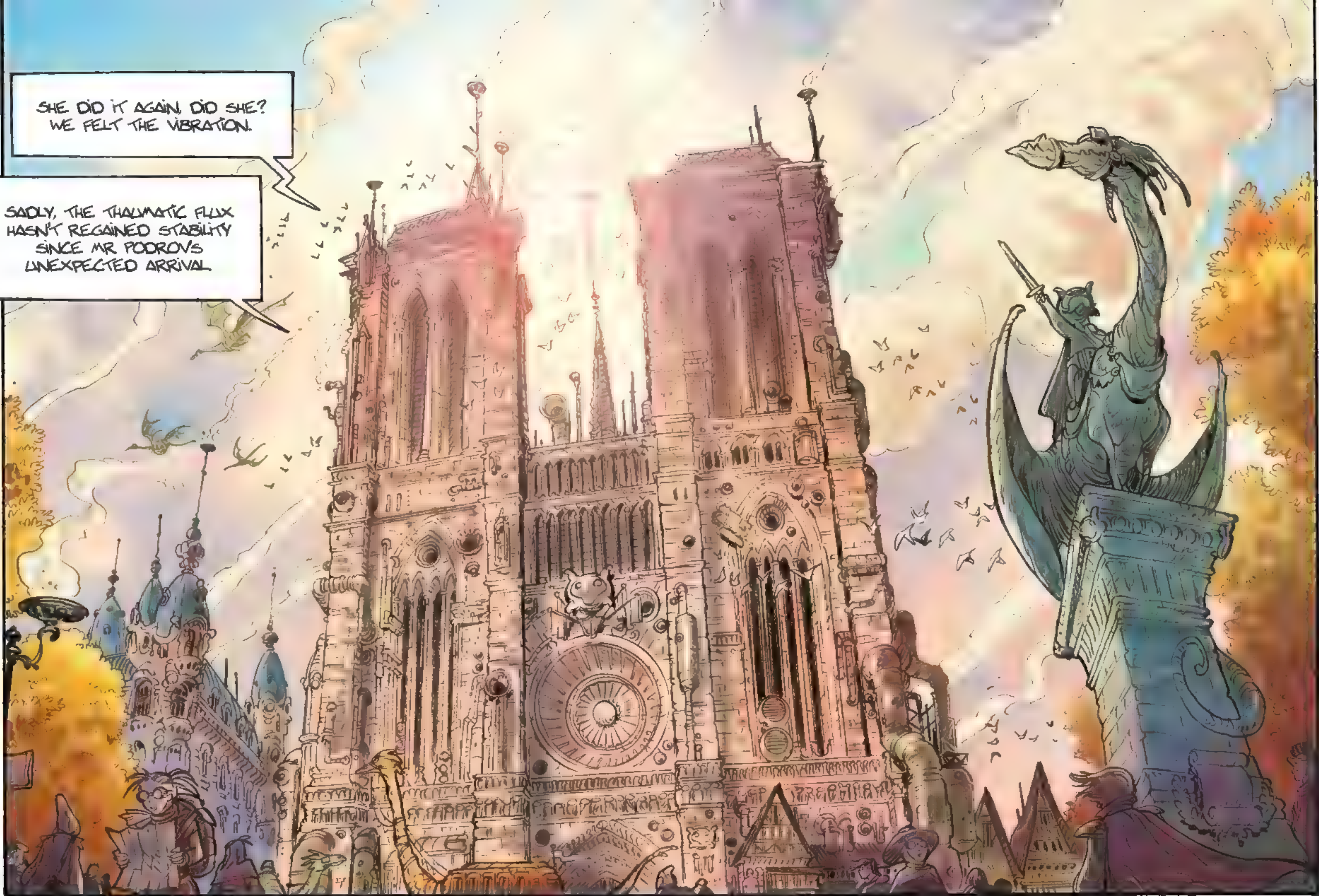
AS YOU WISH, SIR. IT'S YOUR MONEY, AFTER ALL...

SO... 20% IN ADVANCE.

FOR YUMMY! AND YUMMA'S FEE?

SHE DID IT AGAIN, DID SHE?
WE FELT THE VIBRATION.

SADLY, THE THALMATIC FLUX
HASN'T REGAINED STABILITY
SINCE MR PODROVS
UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL.



YES, NEW YORK
WARNED ME.

A CANDY? A
SLICE OF CAKE?

NO, THANK YOU,
BUT A CUP OF
TEA MAY BE
URGENT.



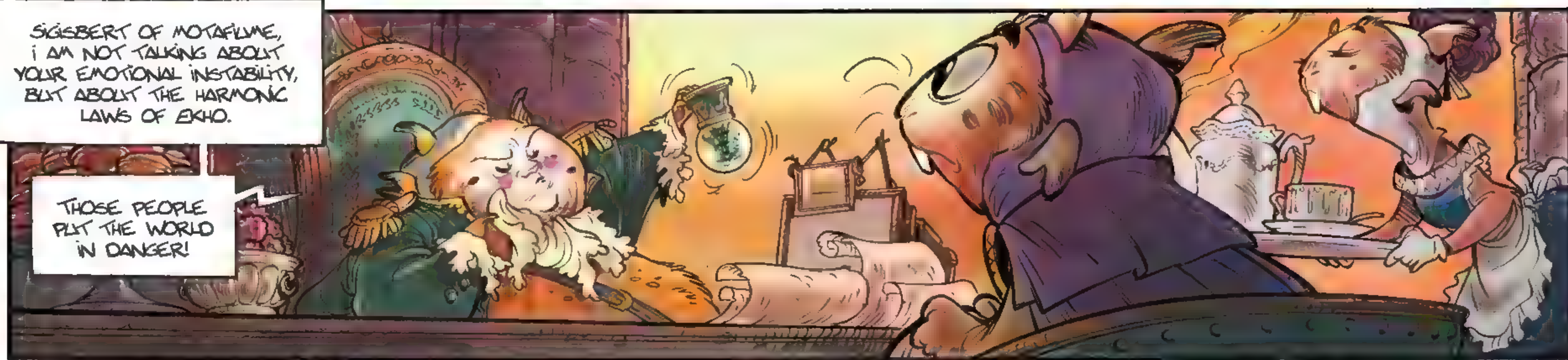
IT'S ESSENTIAL TO... OMNO...
MAINTAIN THE BALANCE,
YOUNG MAN.



ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT THE TEA?
I KNOW I'VE
ABUSED IT A
LITTLE, BUT
SOMETIMES
I CAN'T CONTROL
MYSELF.

SIGSBERT OF MOTAFLME,
I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT
YOUR EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY,
BUT ABOUT THE HARMONIC
LAWS OF EXHO.

THOSE PEOPLE
PUT THE WORLD
IN DANGER!



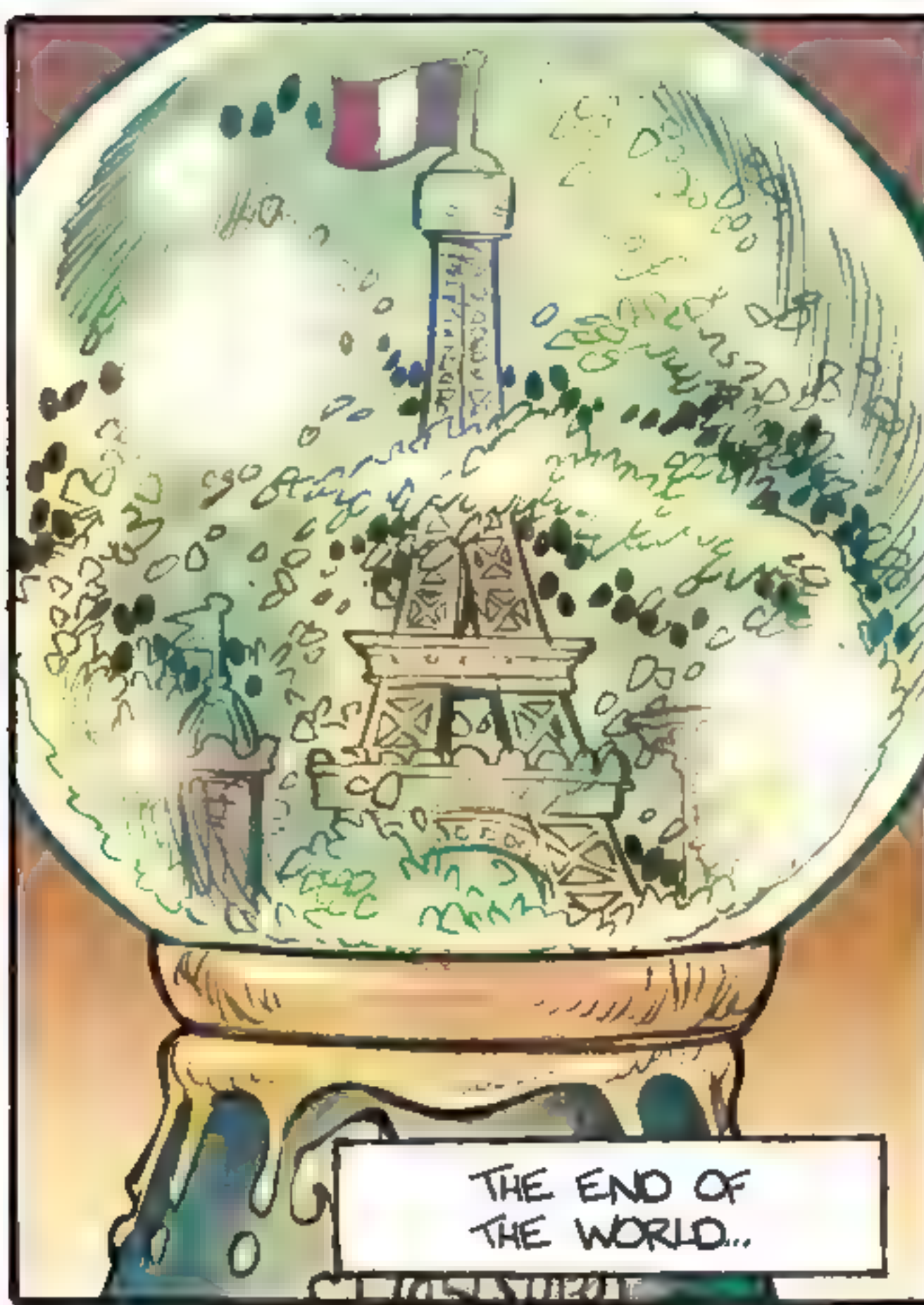


EACH VITAL ELEMENT IS CAREFULLY BALANCED, THE SLIGHTEST THING COULD SEND US INTO OBLIVION!

i know...

Gloop

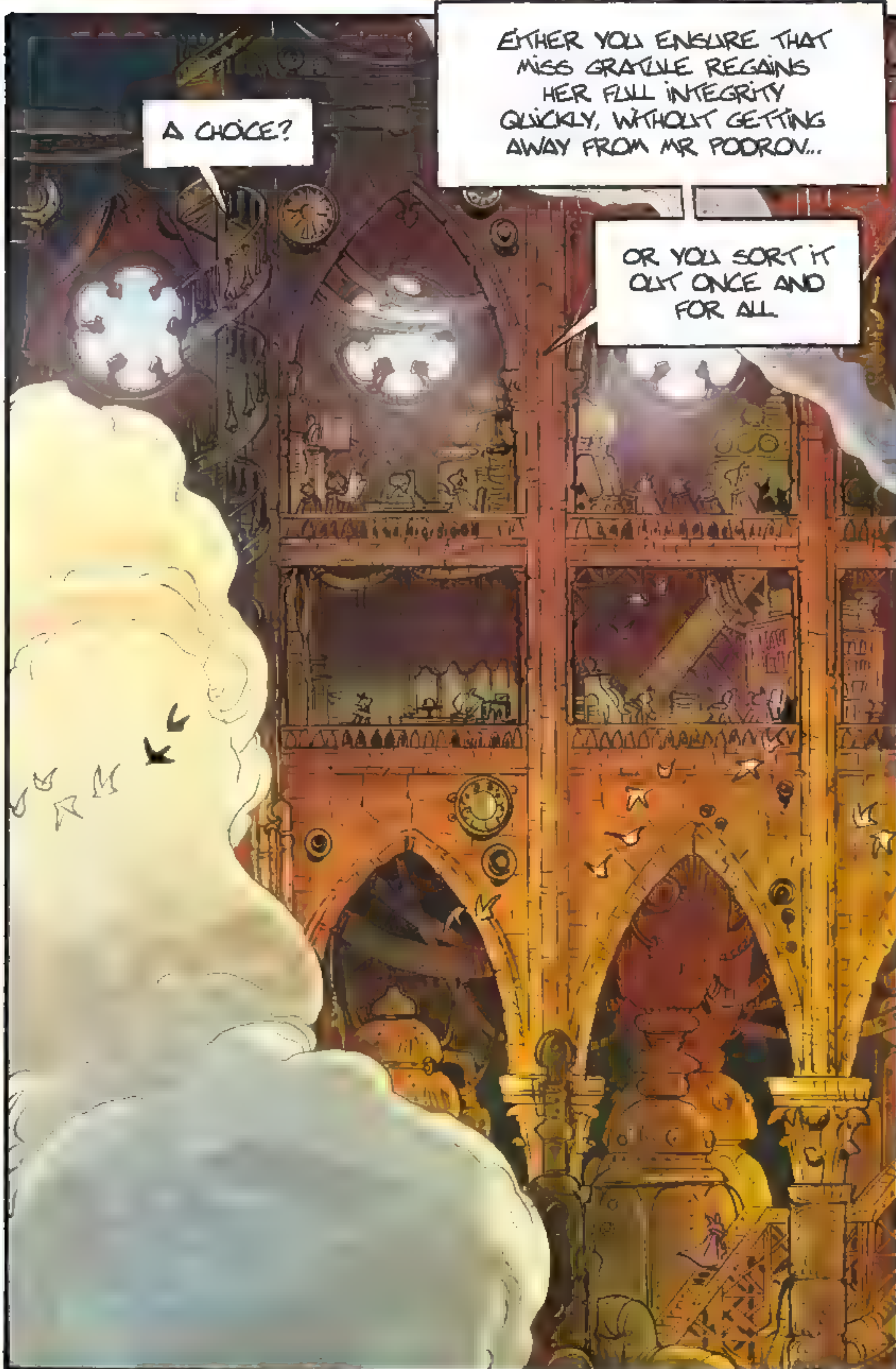
POC



THE END OF THE WORLD...



YOU'RE FACED WITH A CHOICE. NEW YORK SENT YOU TO ACT IF NECESSARY.



A CHOICE?

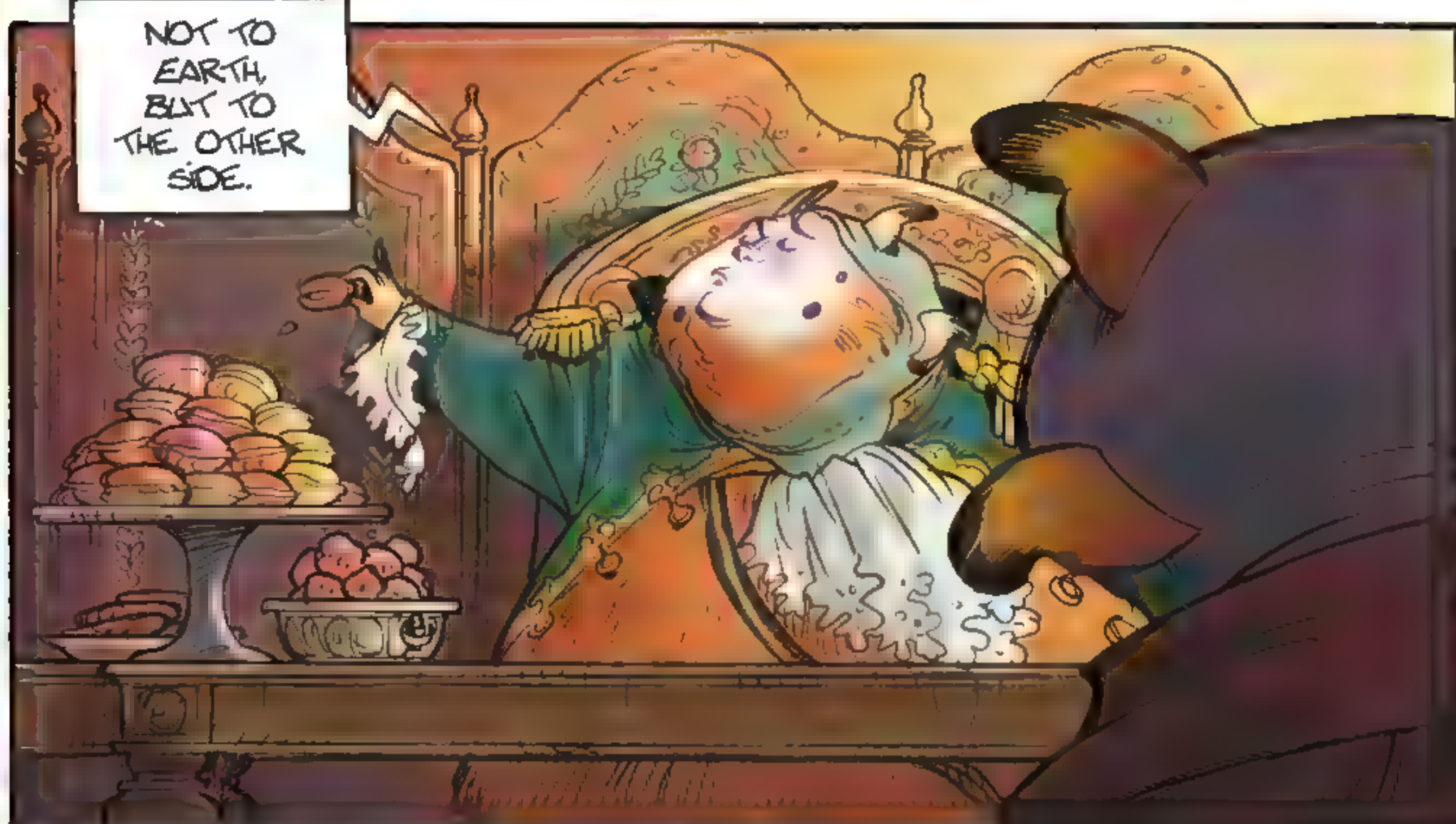
EITHER YOU ENSURE THAT MISS GRAYLE REGAINS HER FULL INTEGRITY QUICKLY, WITHOUT GETTING AWAY FROM MR PODROV...

OR YOU SORT IT OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL

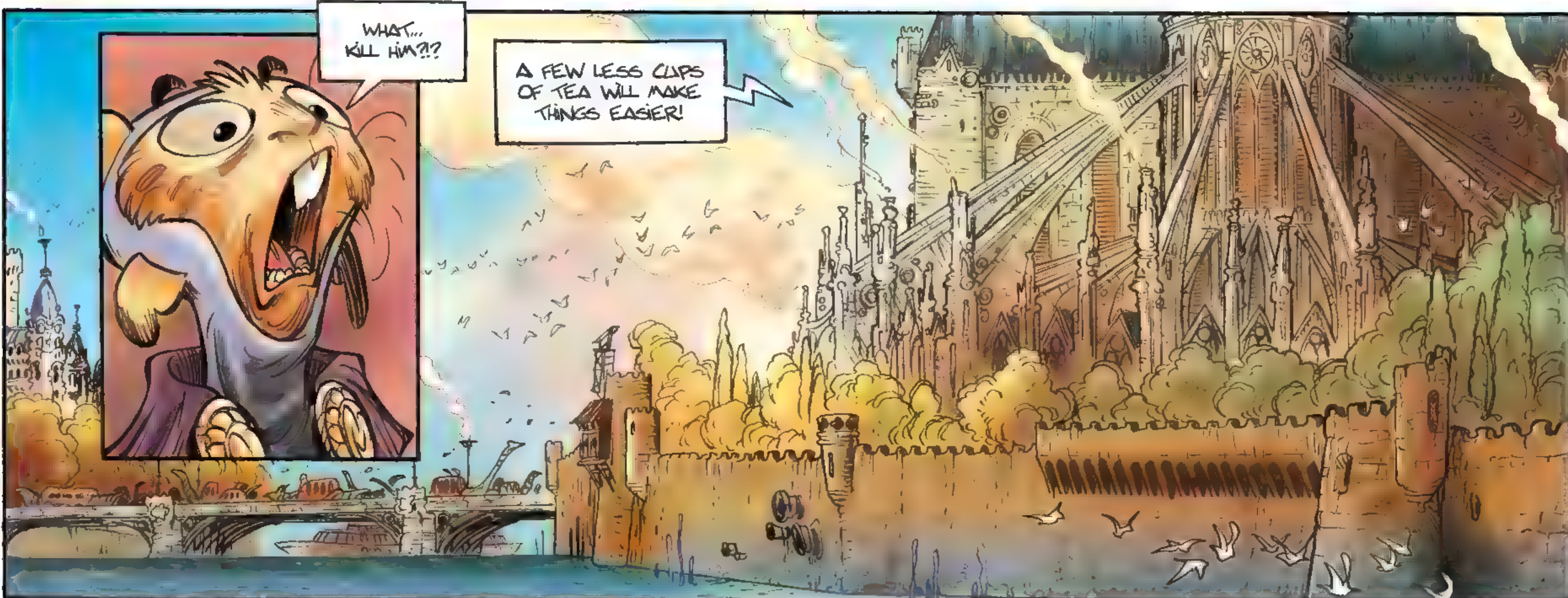


OUR CONCERNS COME FROM MR PODROV'S UNWANTED PRESENCE. MAKE SURE THAT HE'S NO LONGER HERE AND THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED.

SO THAT HE'S NO LONGER HERE? I CAN'T SEND HIM BACK TO EARTH!

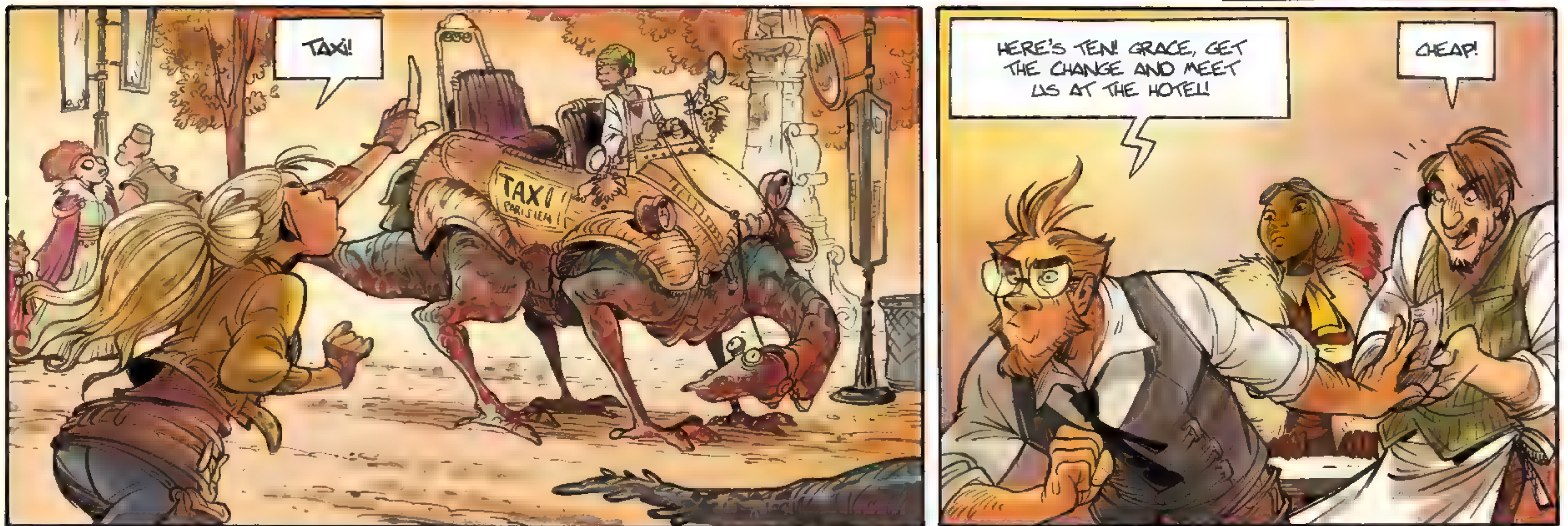
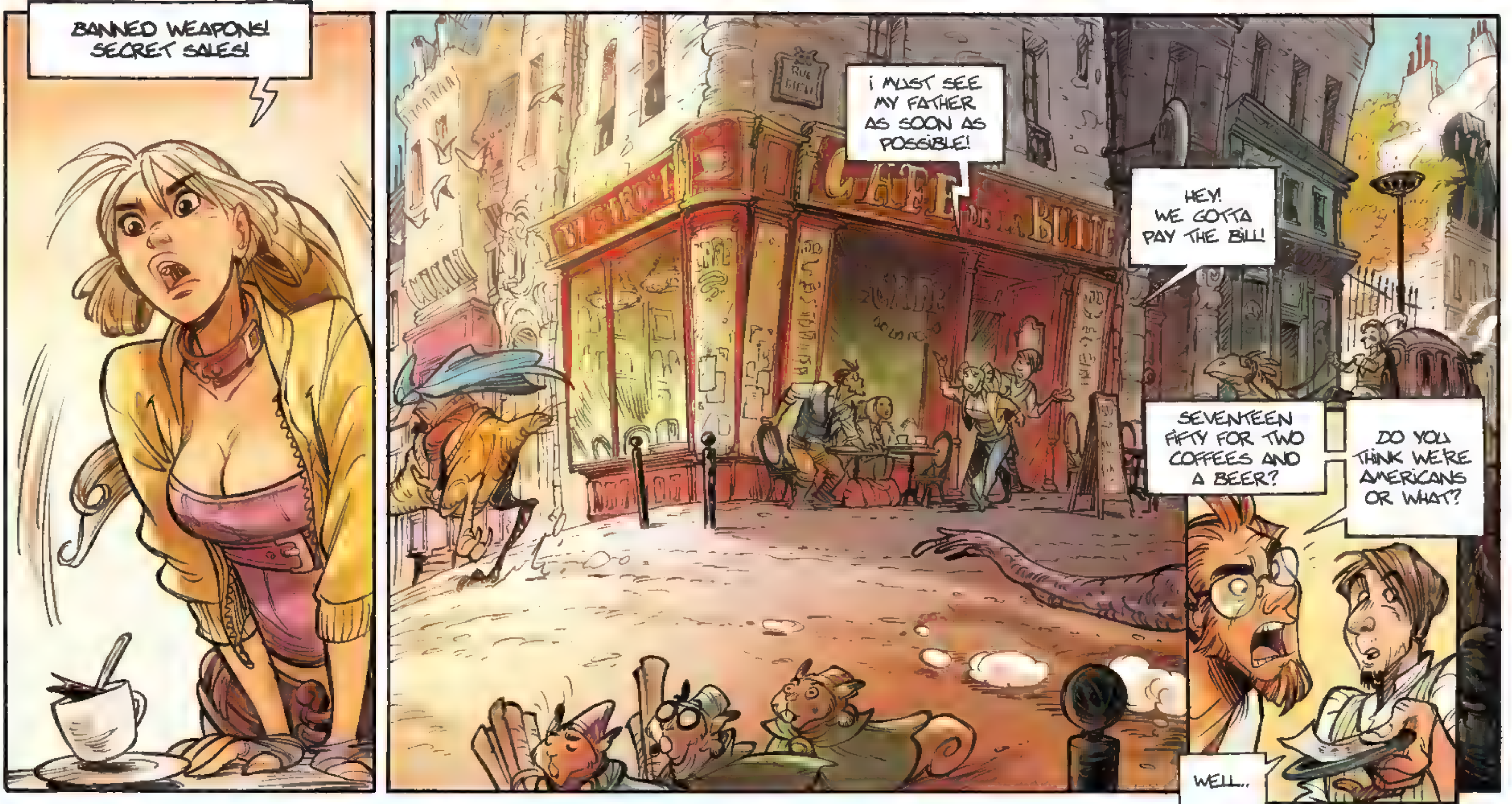
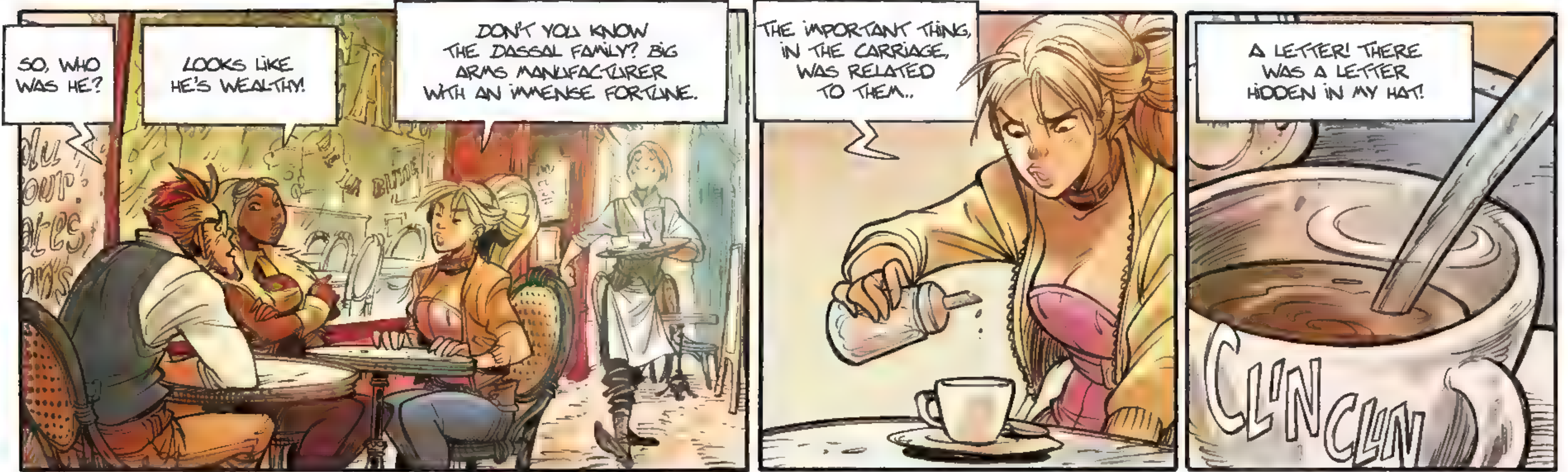


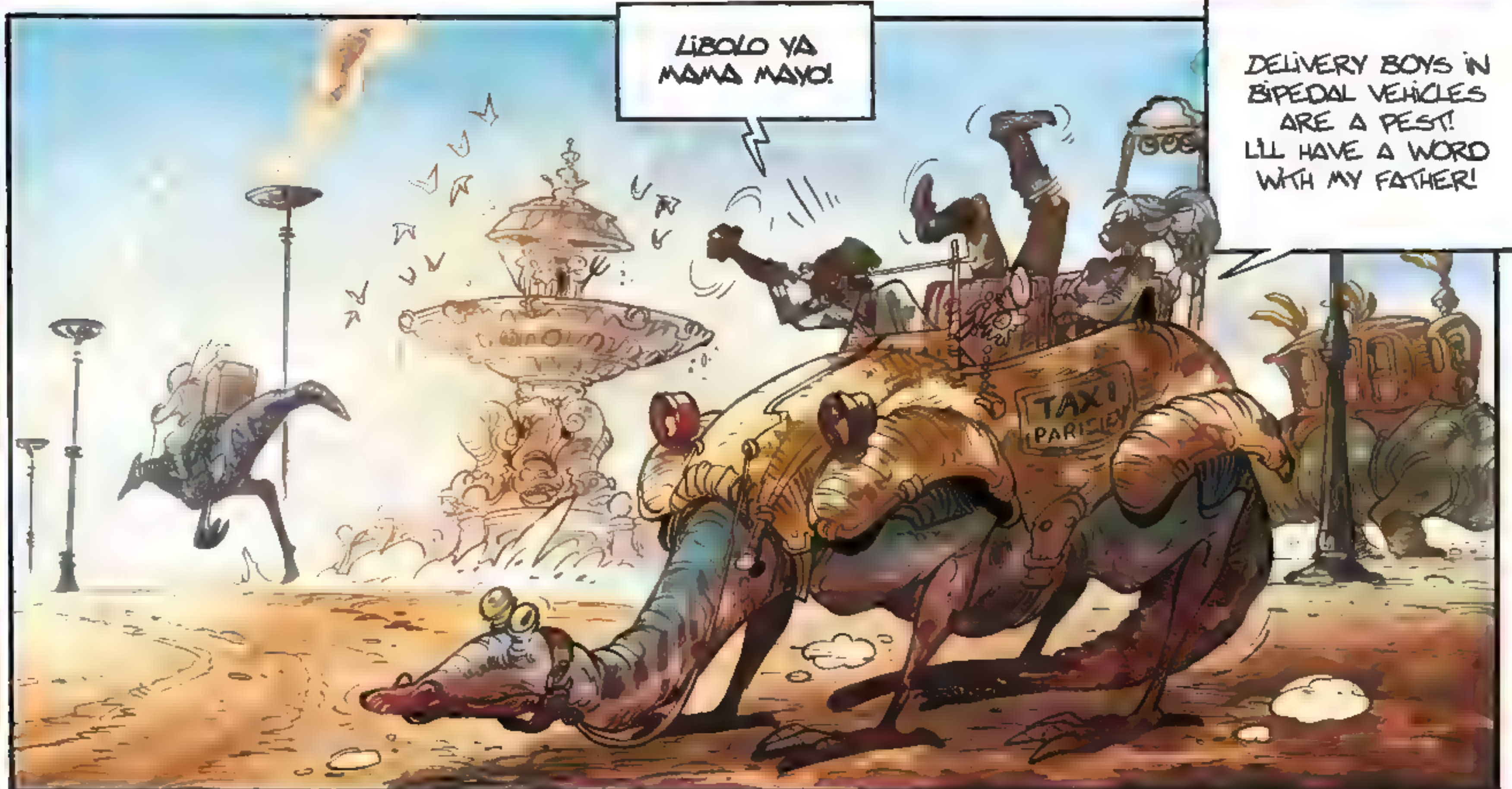
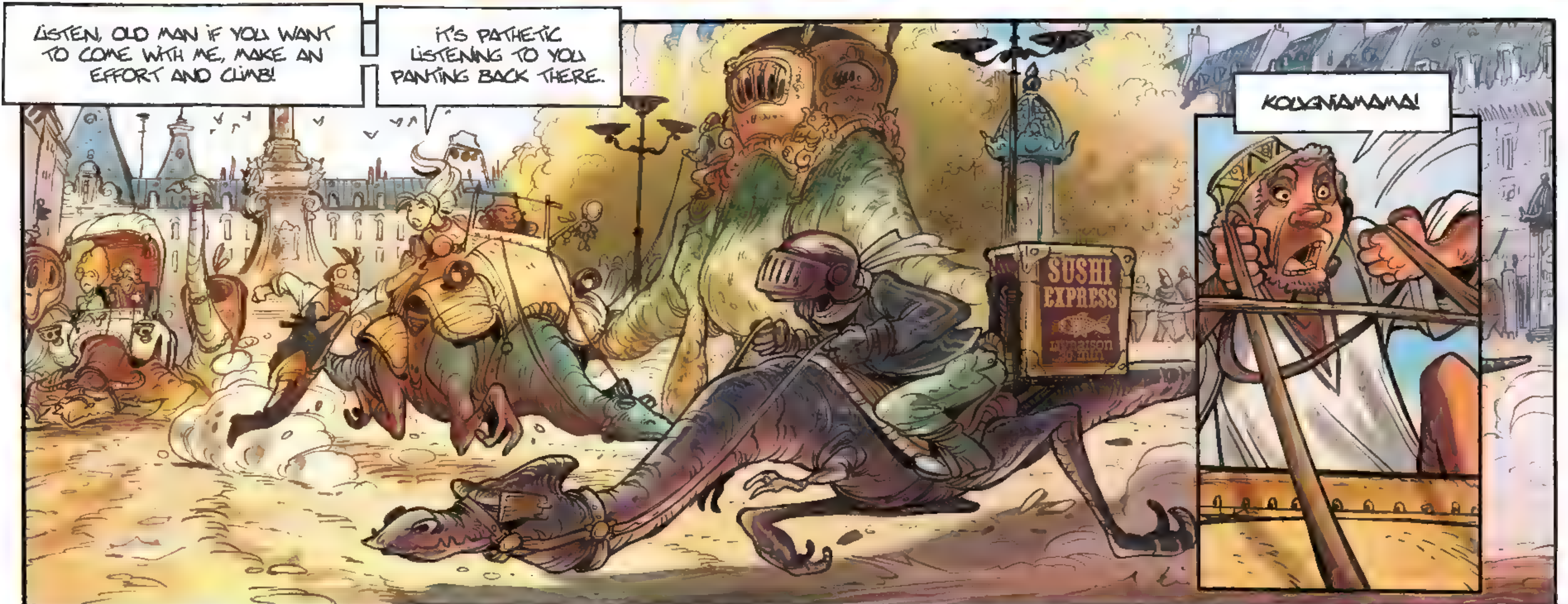
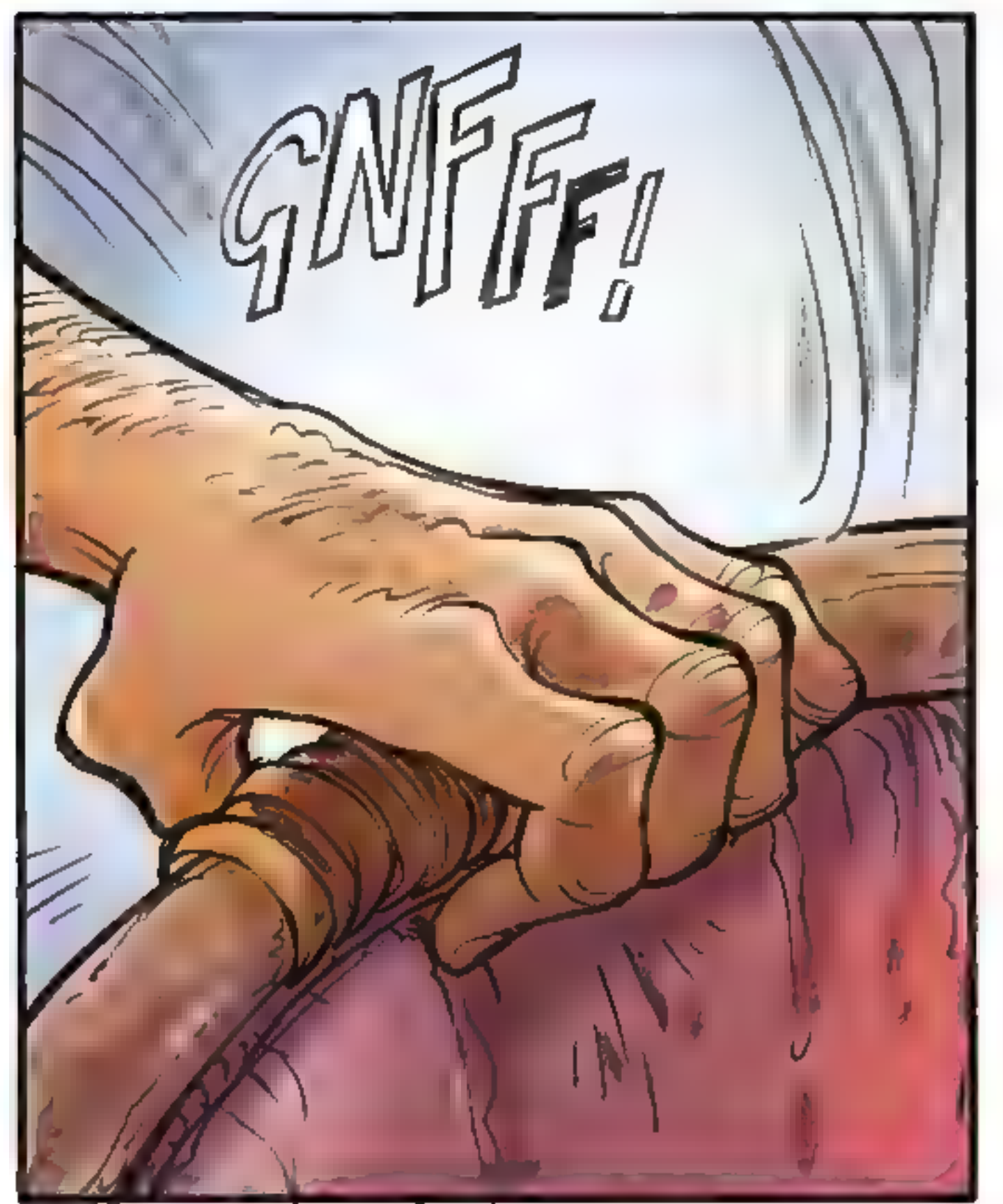
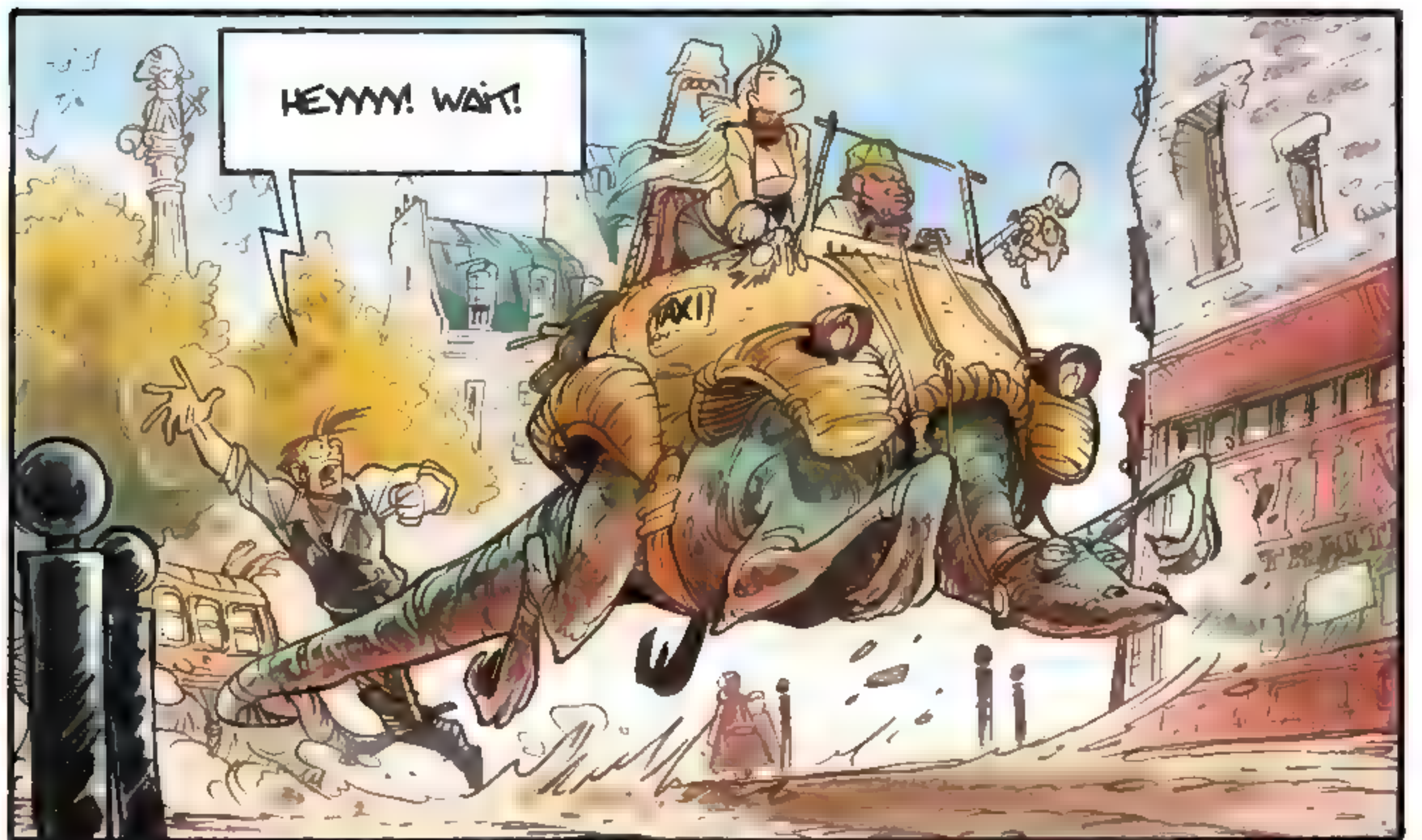
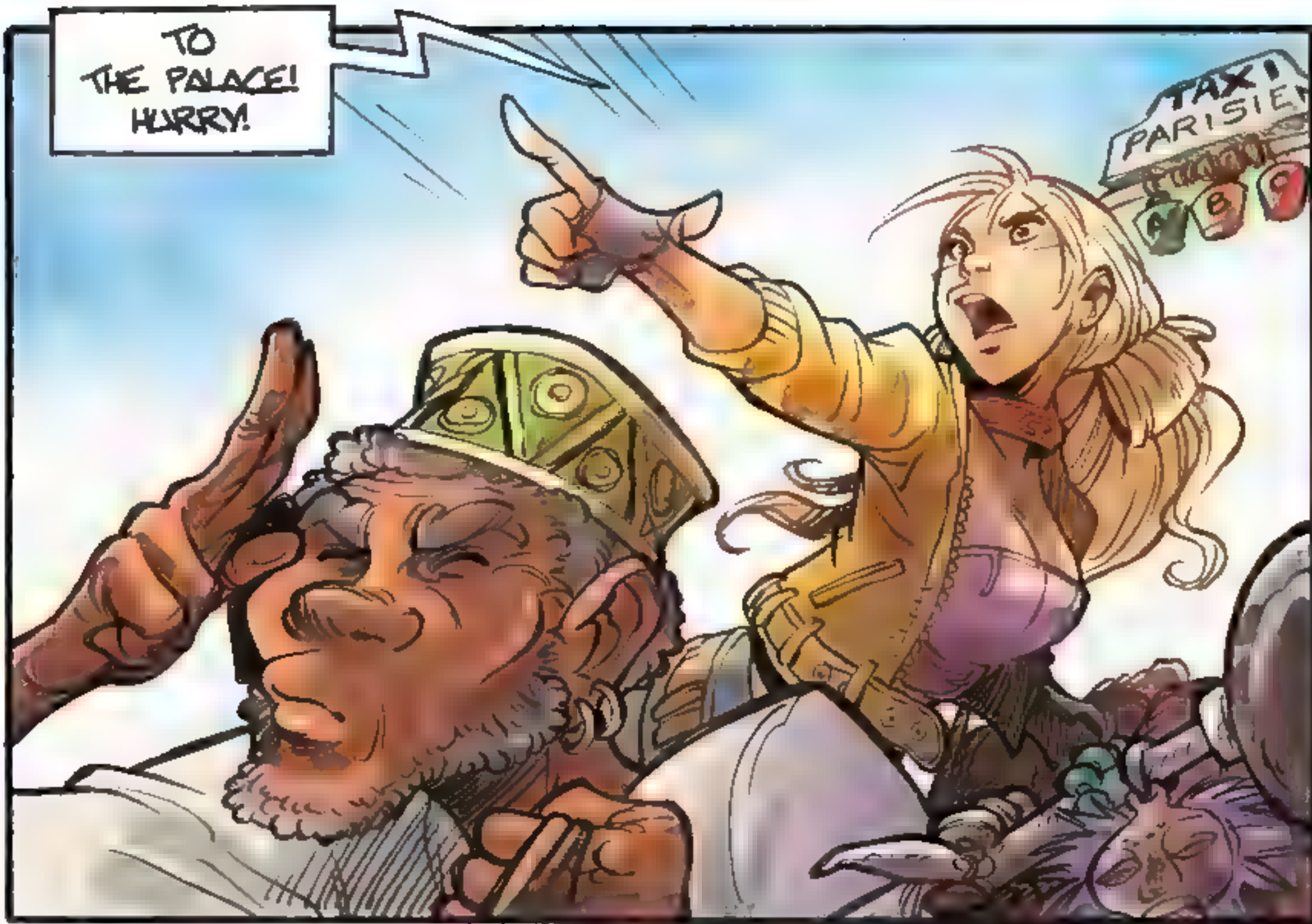
NOT TO EARTH, BUT TO THE OTHER SIDE.



WHAT... KILL HIM???

A FEW LESS CUPS OF TEA WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER!





BUILT IN 1889 BY MISTER EIFFEL AT THE SAME TIME AS THE IMPERIAL PALACE AT ITS FEET. THE FAMOUS WOOD AND STONE TOWER HAS BEEN WATCHING OVER PARIS LIKE A NET-LIKE STREAMLINED FORTRESS AND THOUGH AT THE TIME I DIDN'T REALIZE IT, THE EIFFEL TOWER WITHOUT IRON LOOKED PRETTY WEIRD...

WHEN YOU SAY "FATHER," YOU MEAN THE EMPEROR ISN'T IT?

OF COURSE, SINCE I'M PRINCE ANTOINE!

AND THE EMPEROR IS...

NAPOLEON VII OF COURSE! DON'T BE A BAGPIPE!

WELL THAT'S WHAT I AM!

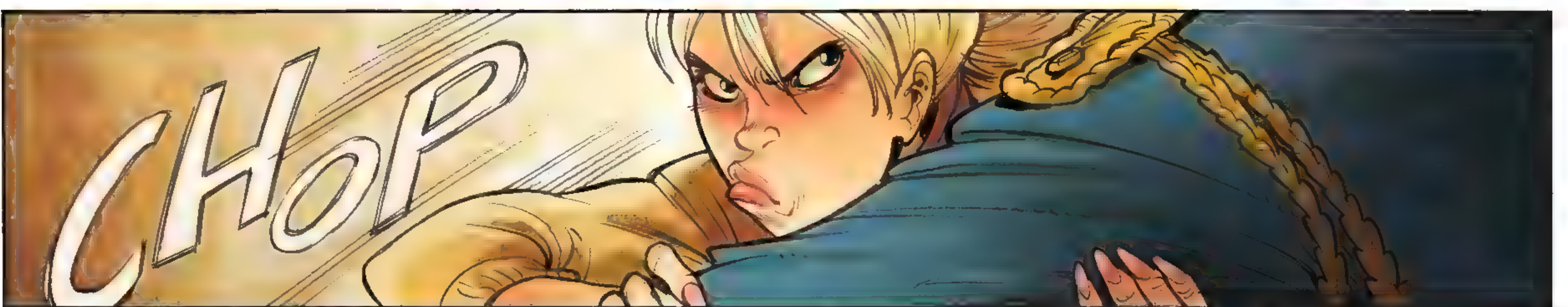
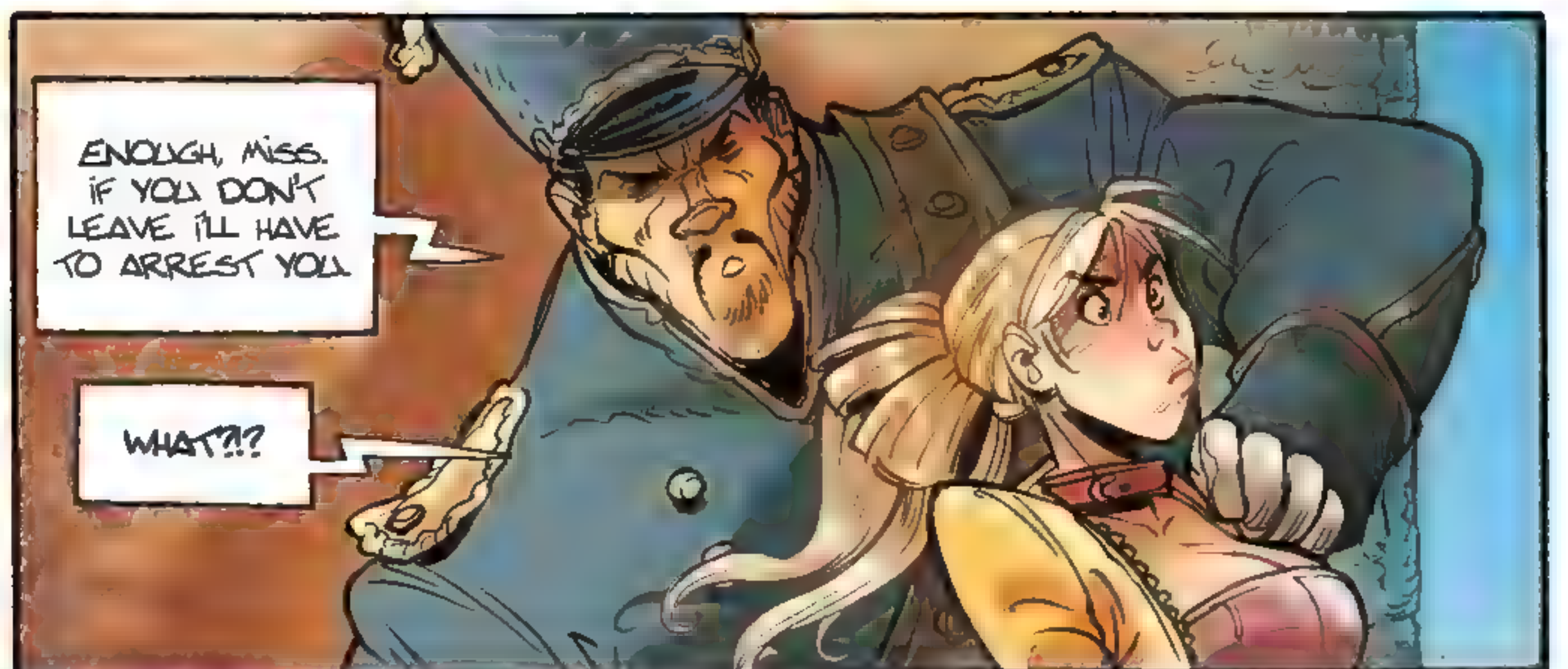
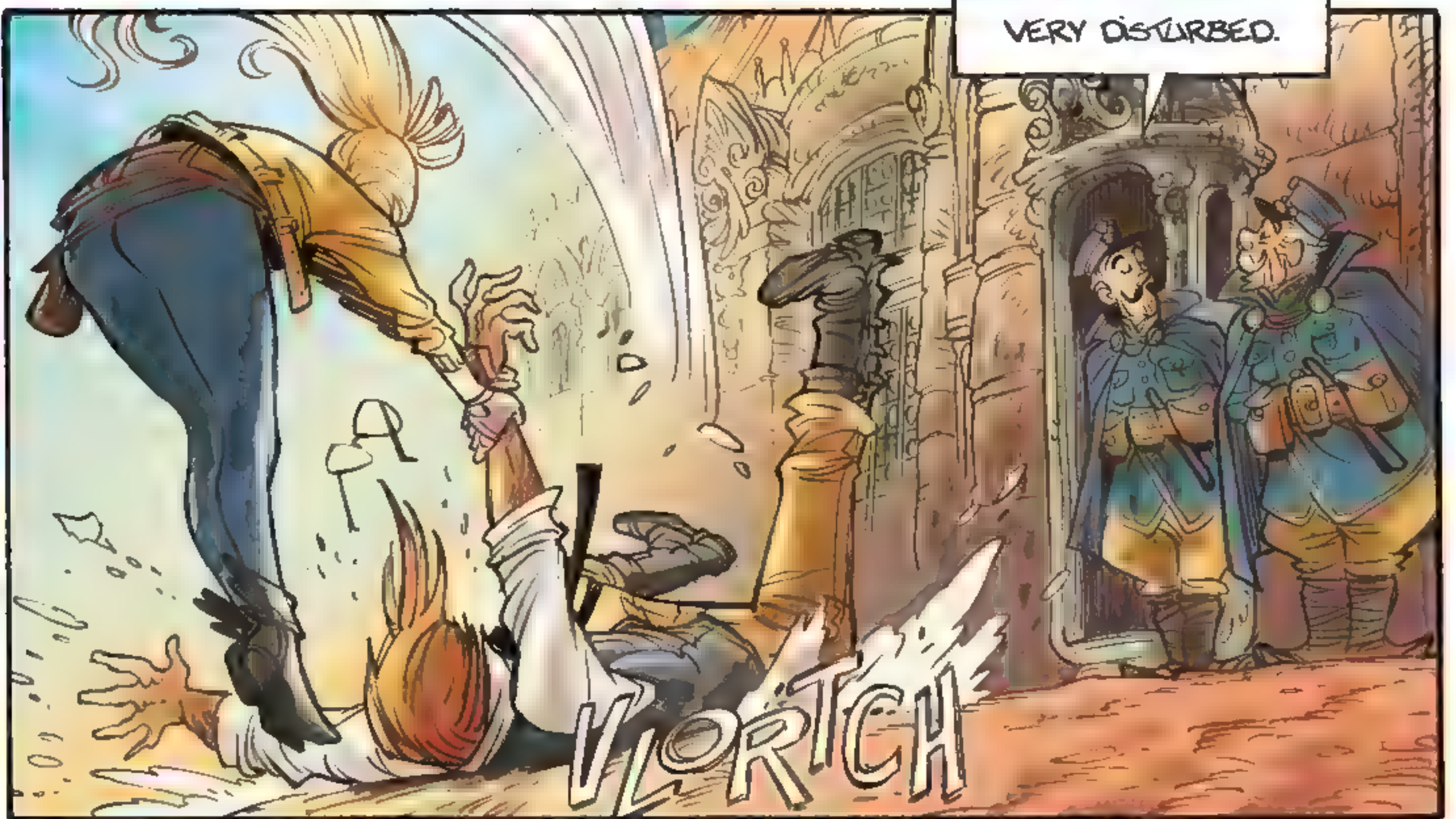
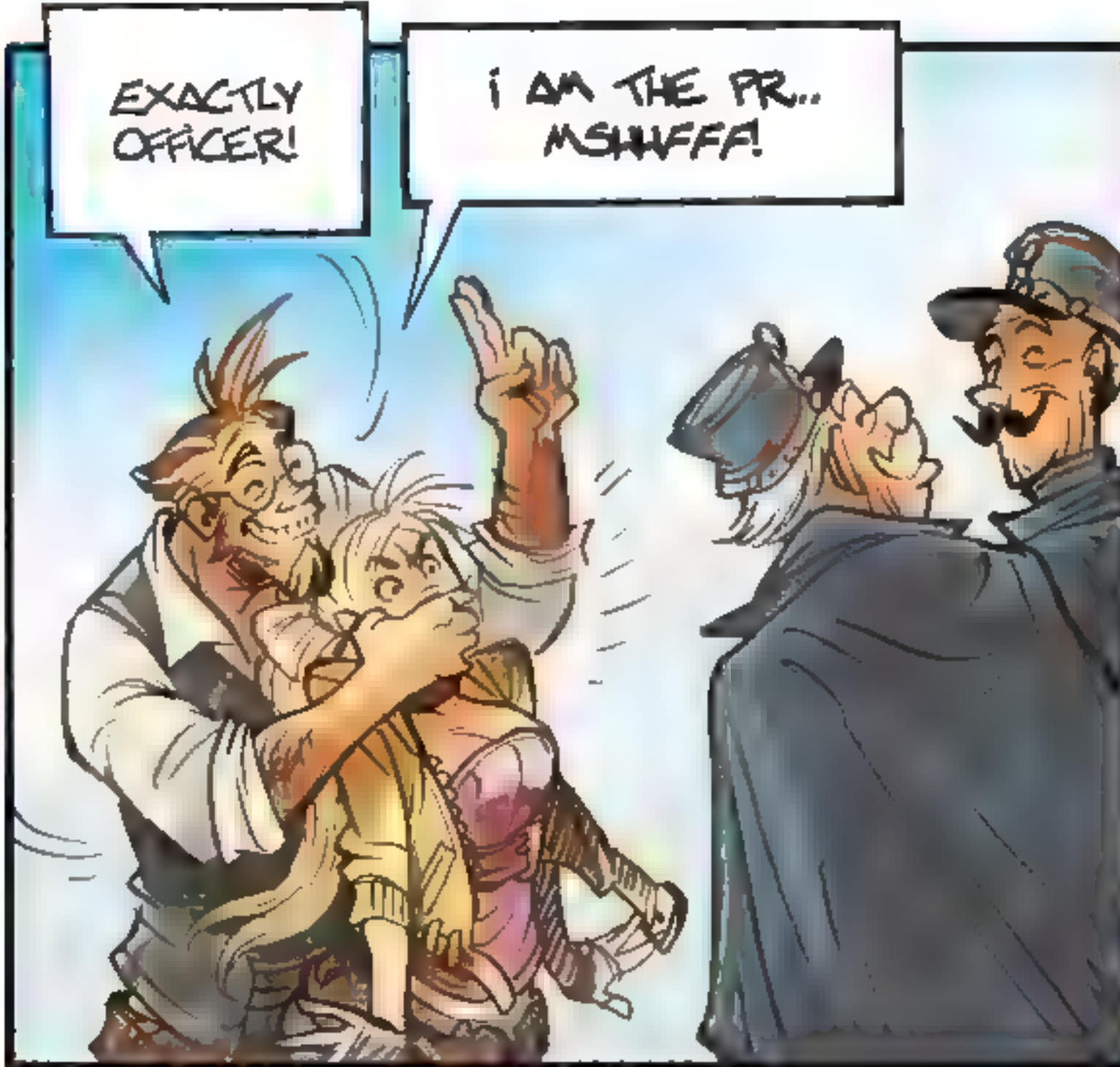
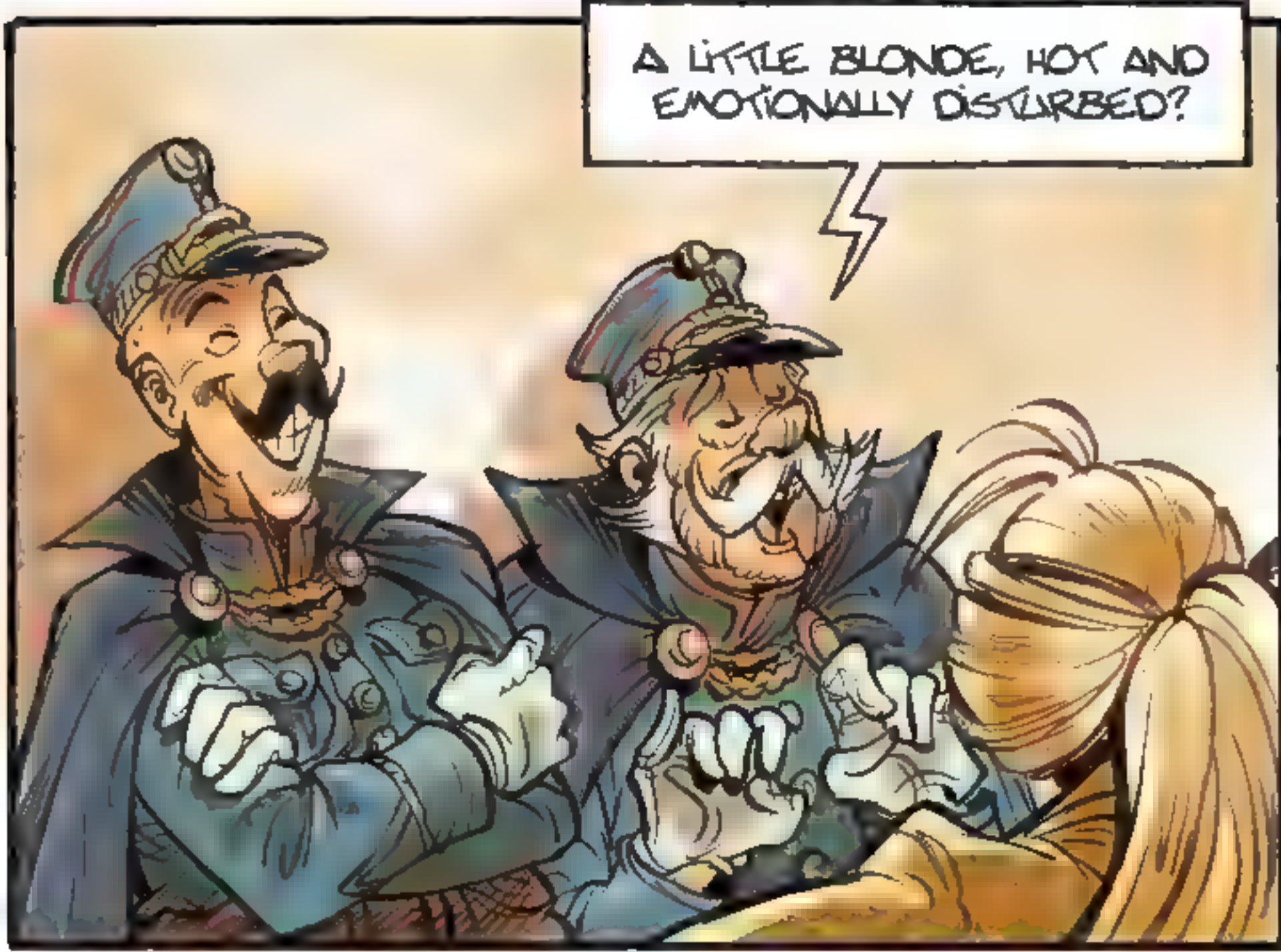
STEP ASIDE!

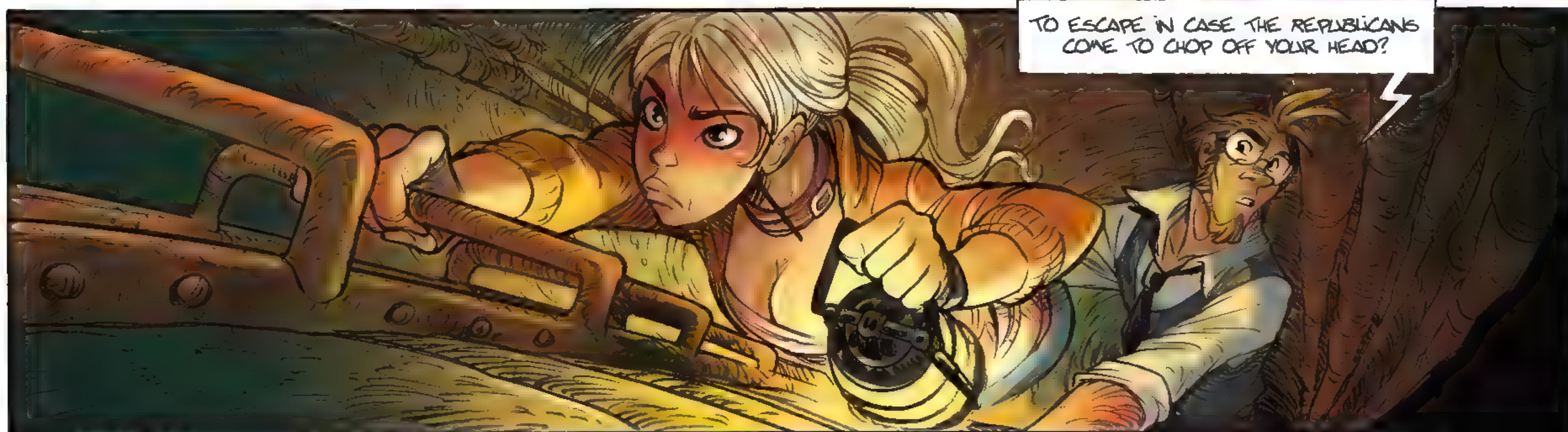
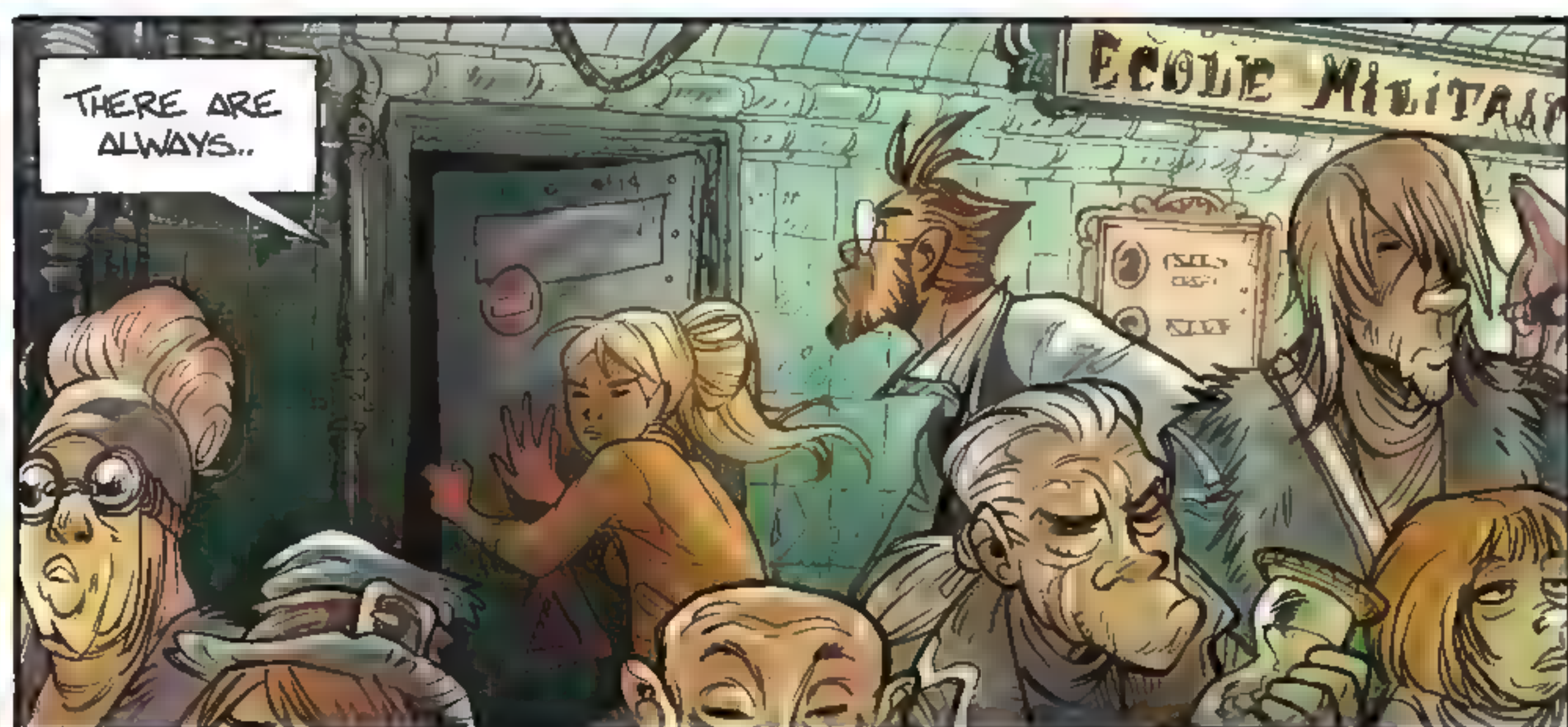
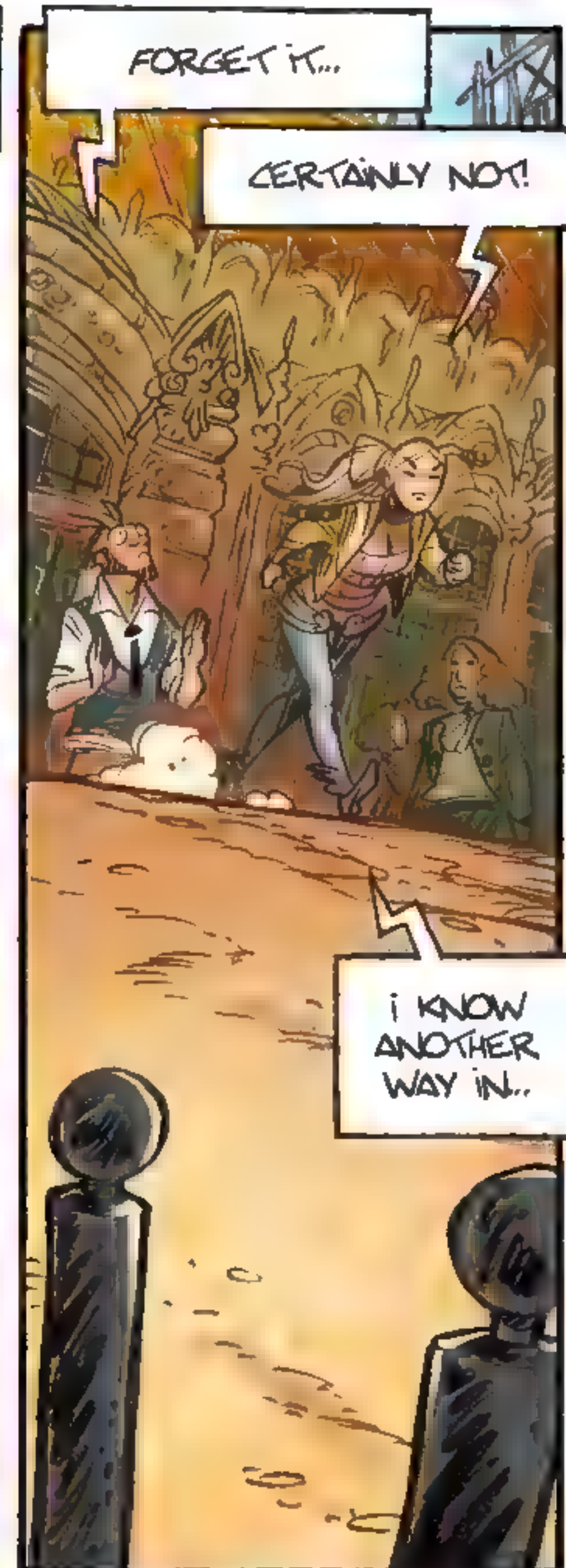
??

HEY THIS ISN'T BUCKINGHAM PALACE! WE AREN'T HERE TO PLAY WITH THE TOURISTS!

GET LOST!

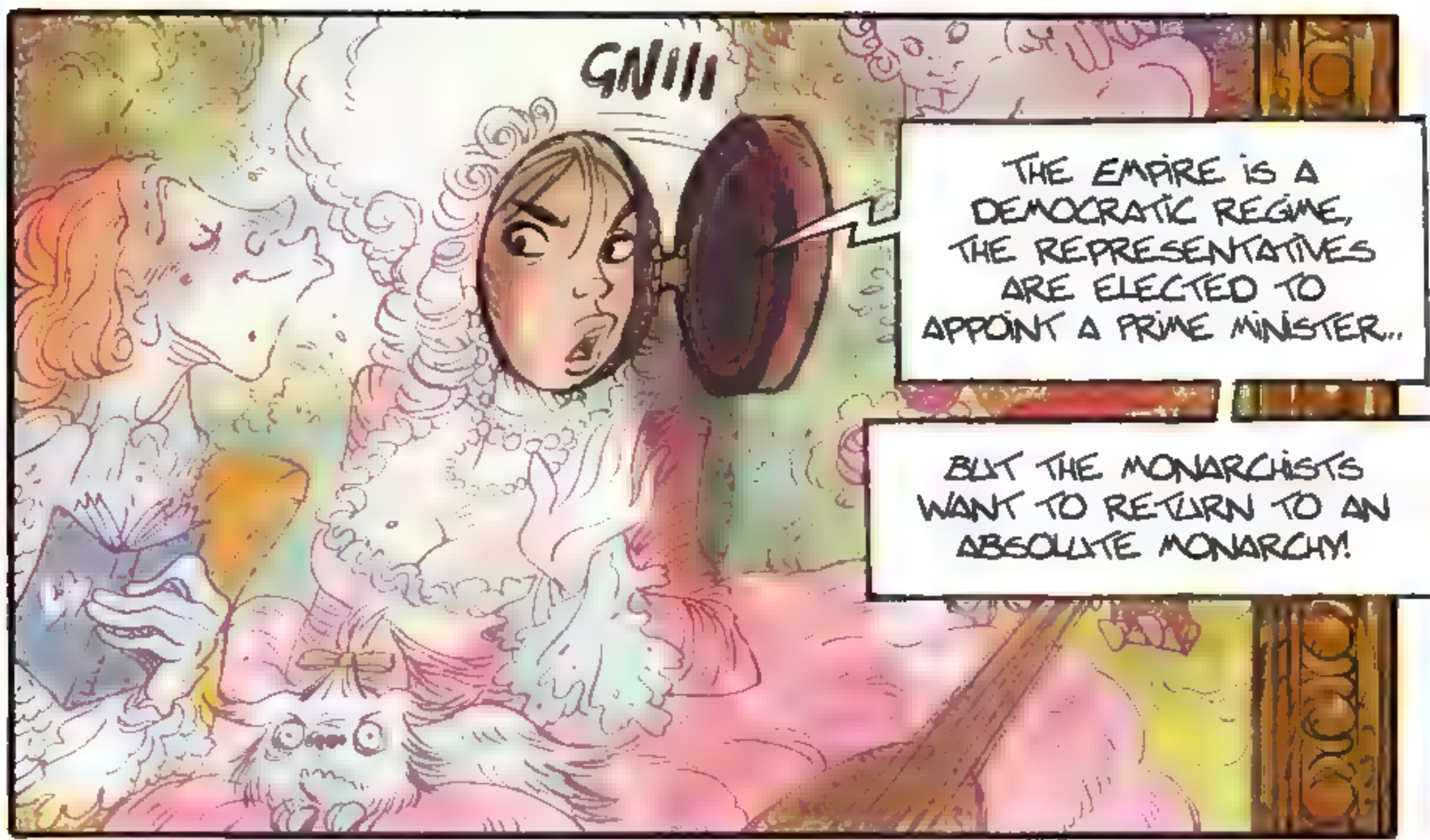
HEY! DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?







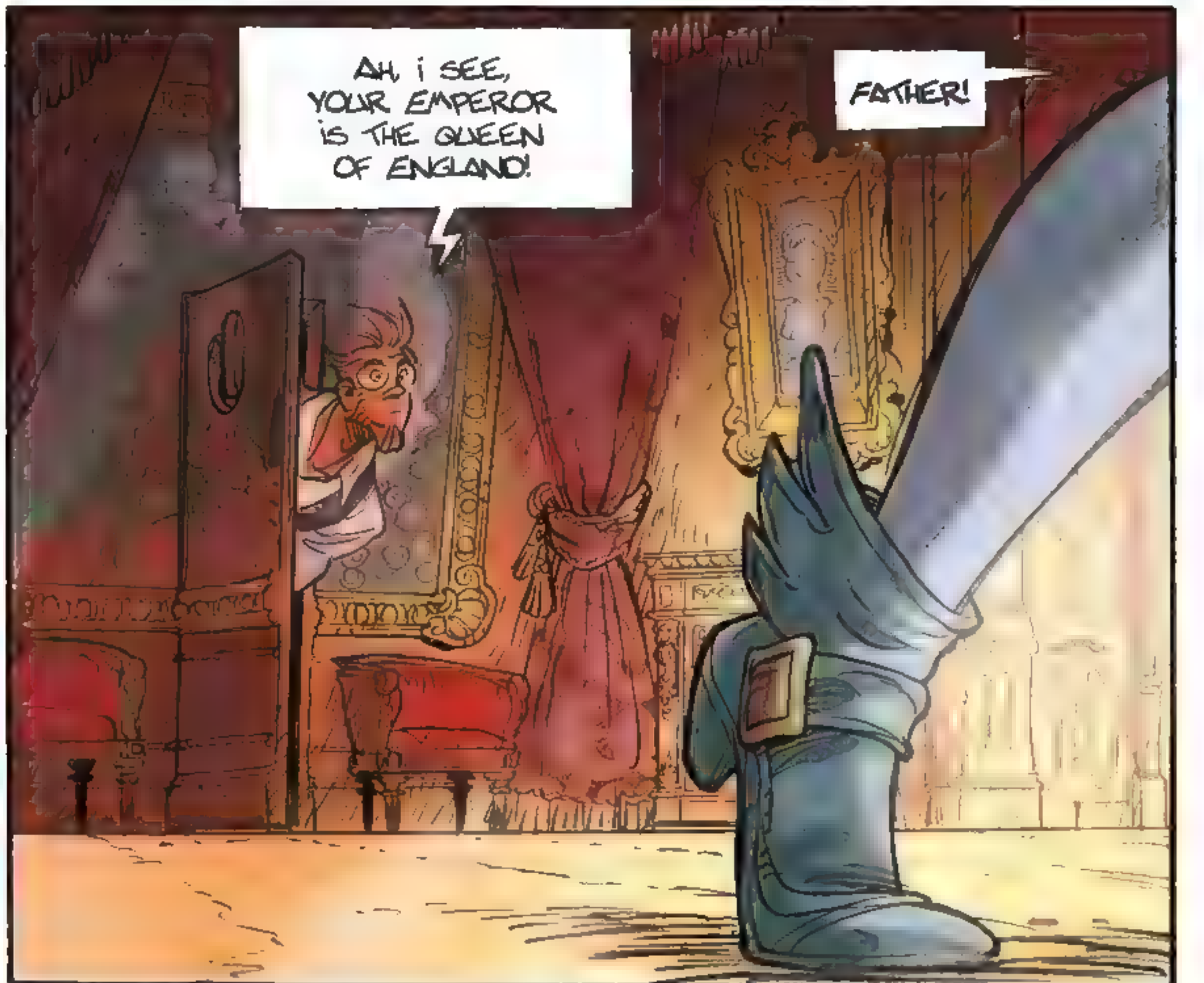
REPUBLICANS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM. IT'S THE MONARCHISTS!



GN!!!

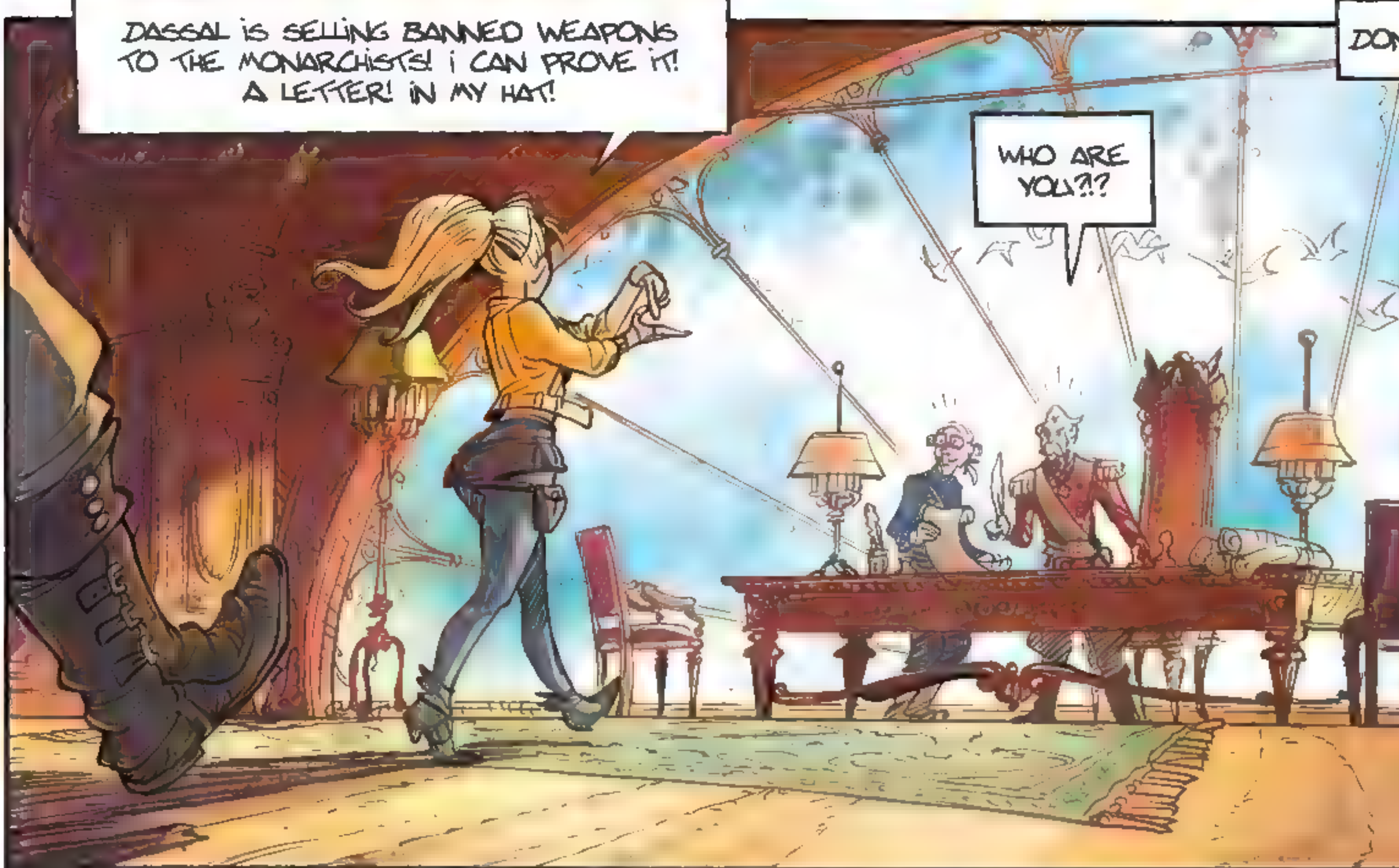
THE EMPIRE IS A DEMOCRATIC REGIME, THE REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED TO APPOINT A PRIME MINISTER...

BUT THE MONARCHISTS WANT TO RETURN TO AN ABSOLUTE MONARCHY!



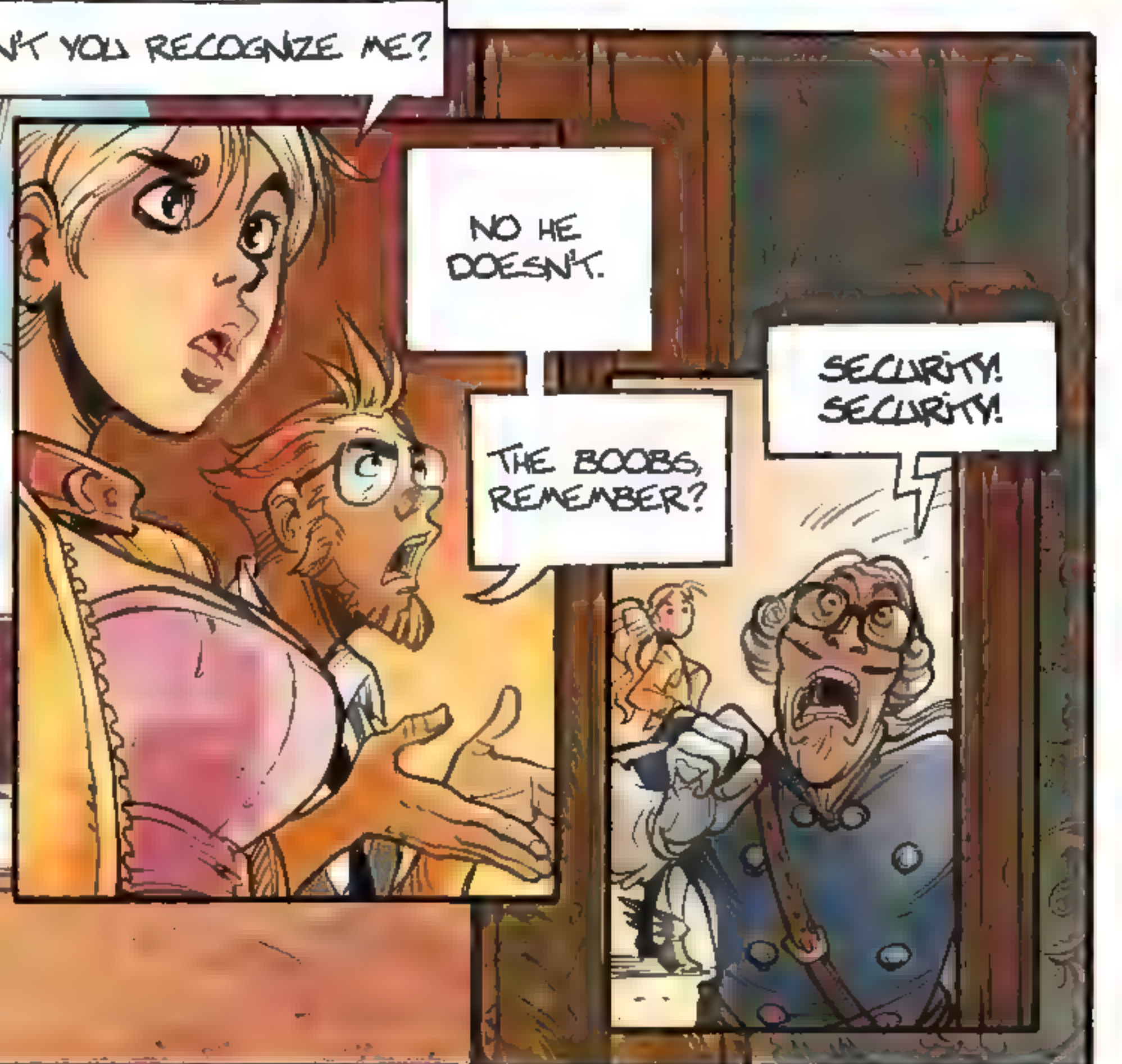
AH, I SEE, YOUR EMPEROR IS THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND!

FATHER!



DASSAL IS SELLING BANNED WEAPONS TO THE MONARCHISTS! I CAN PROVE IT! A LETTER! IN MY HAT!

WHO ARE YOU??



DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

NO HE DOESN'T.

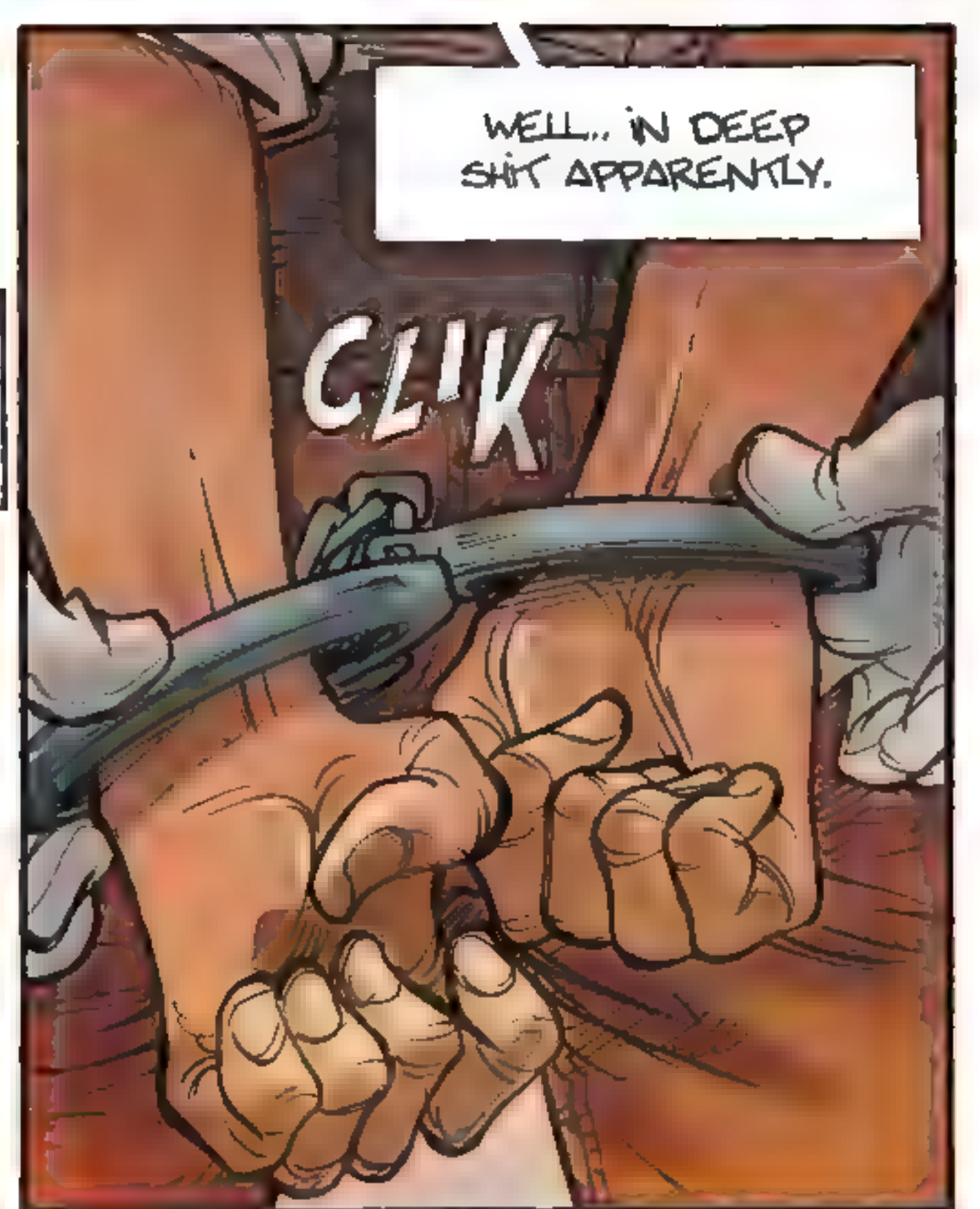
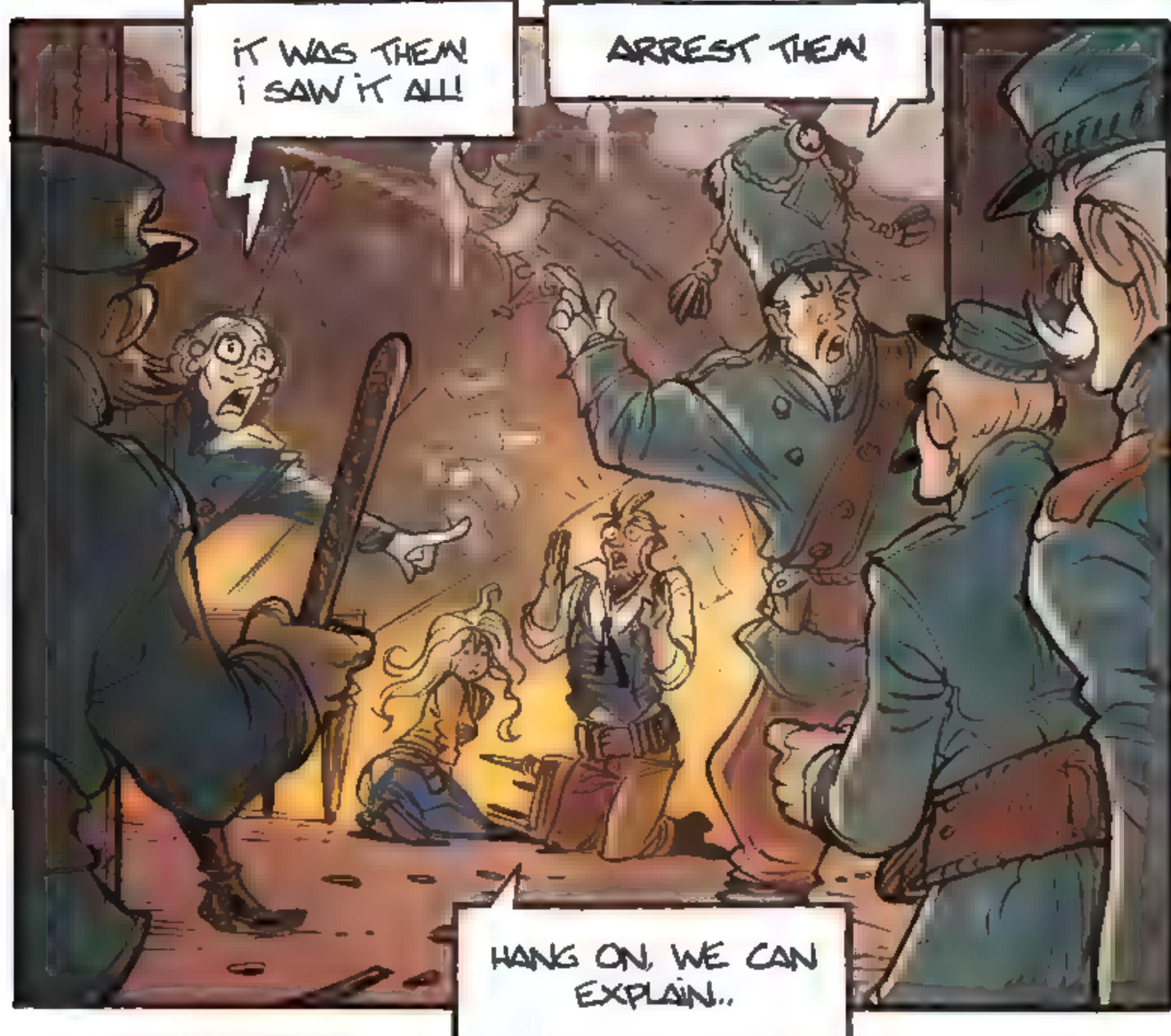
THE BOOBS REMEMBER?

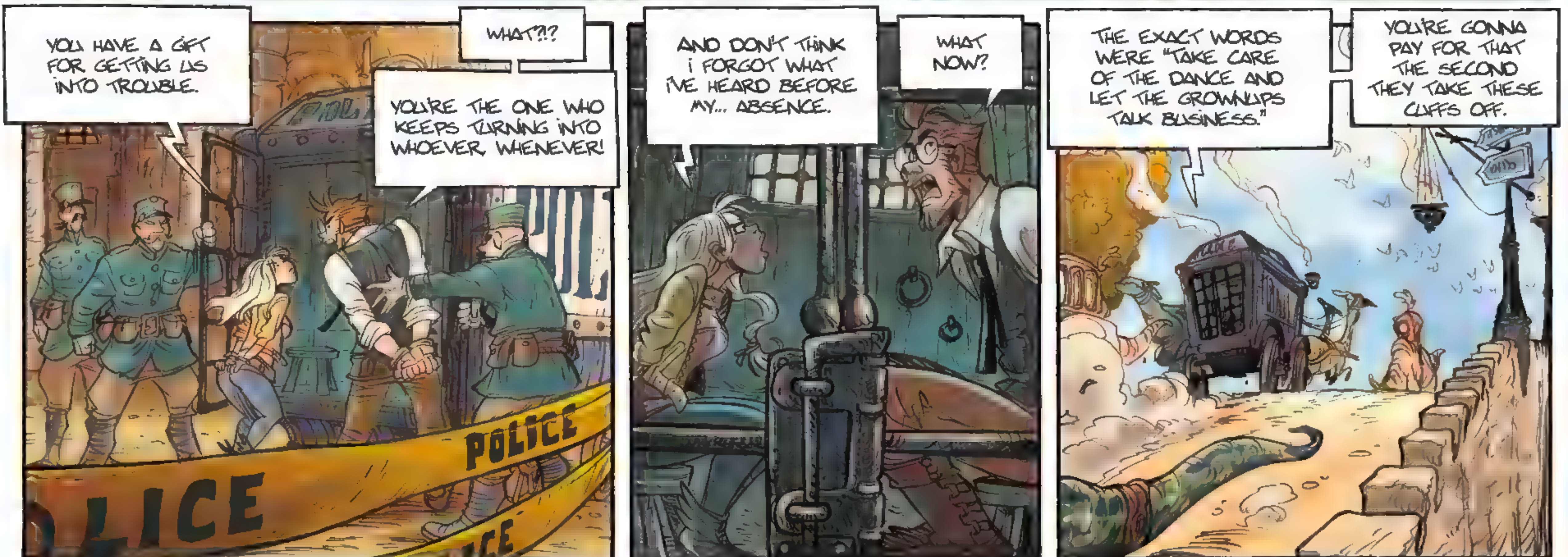
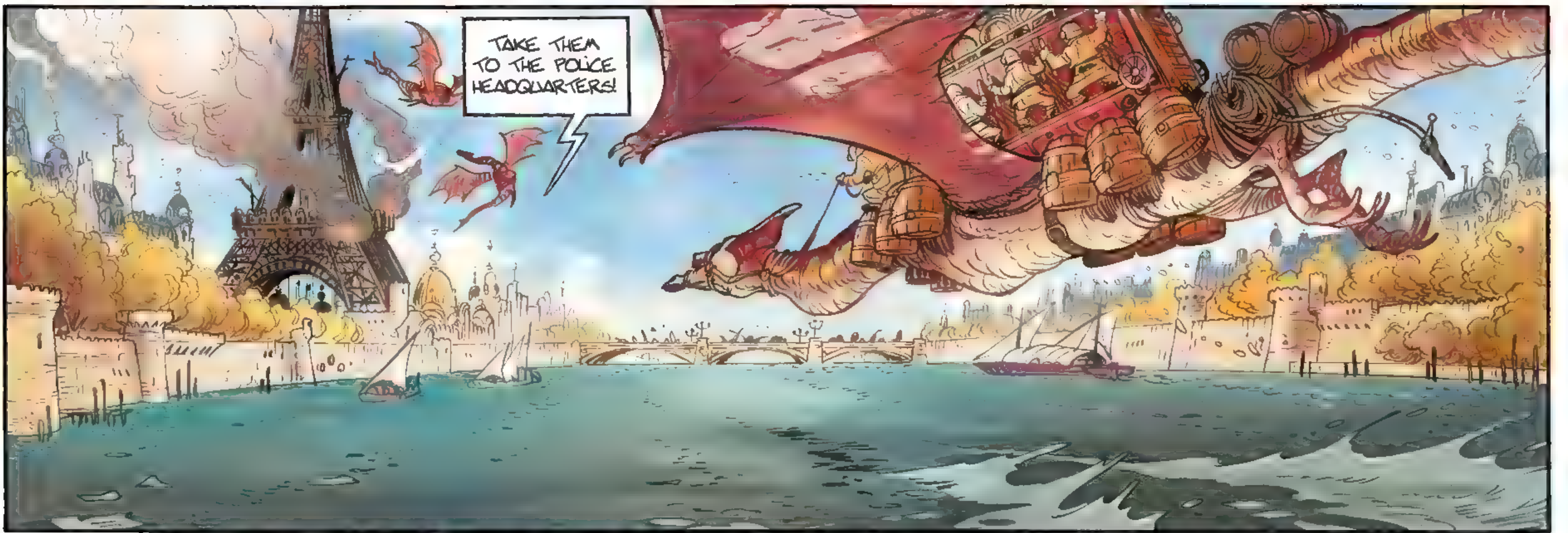
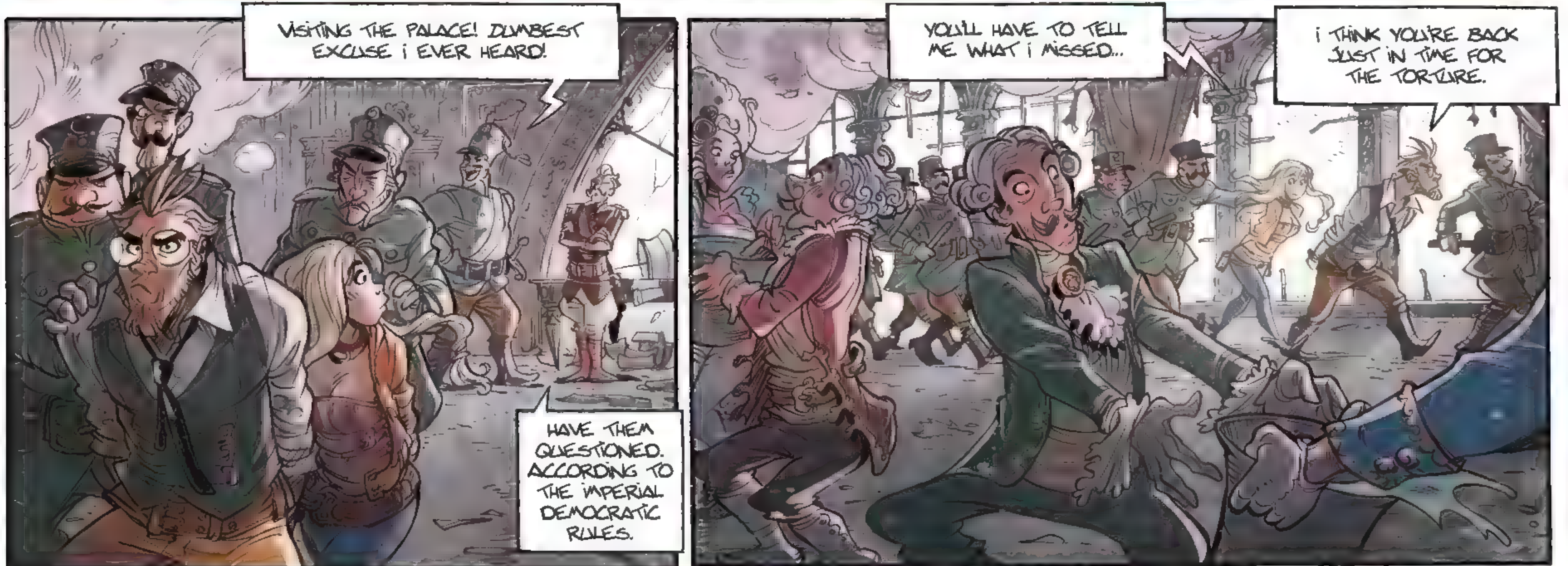
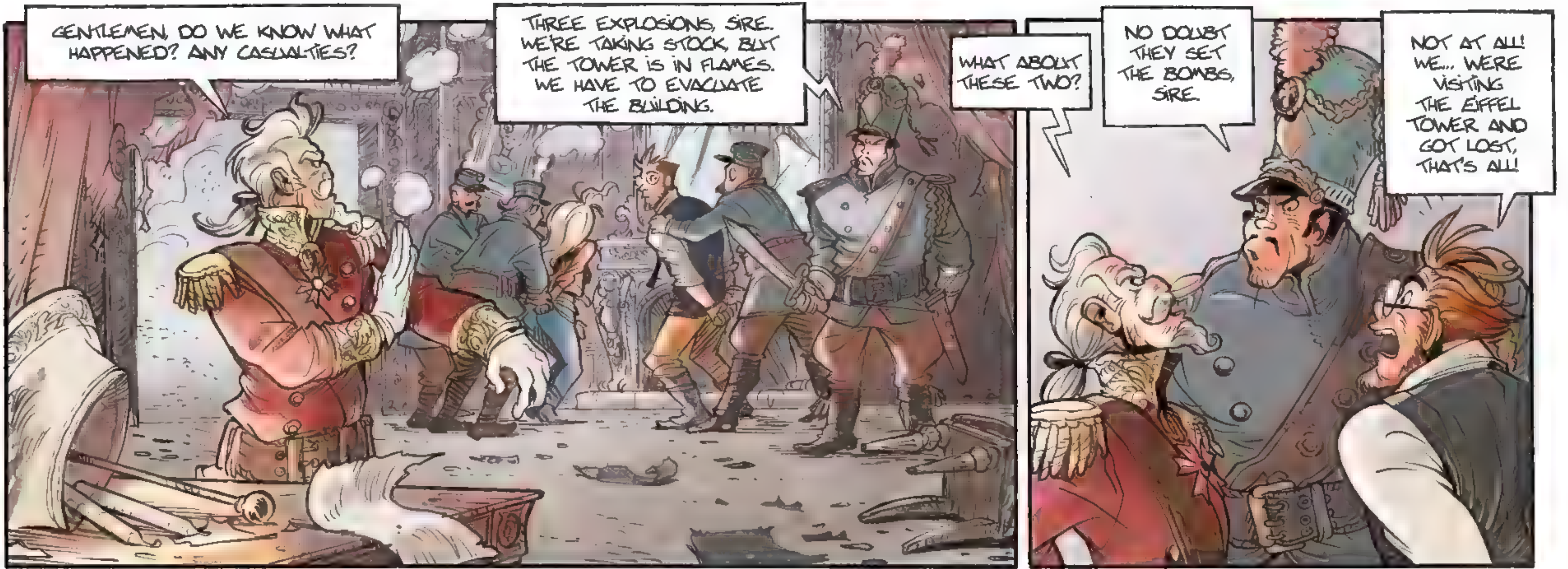
SECURITY! SECURITY!



BUT...

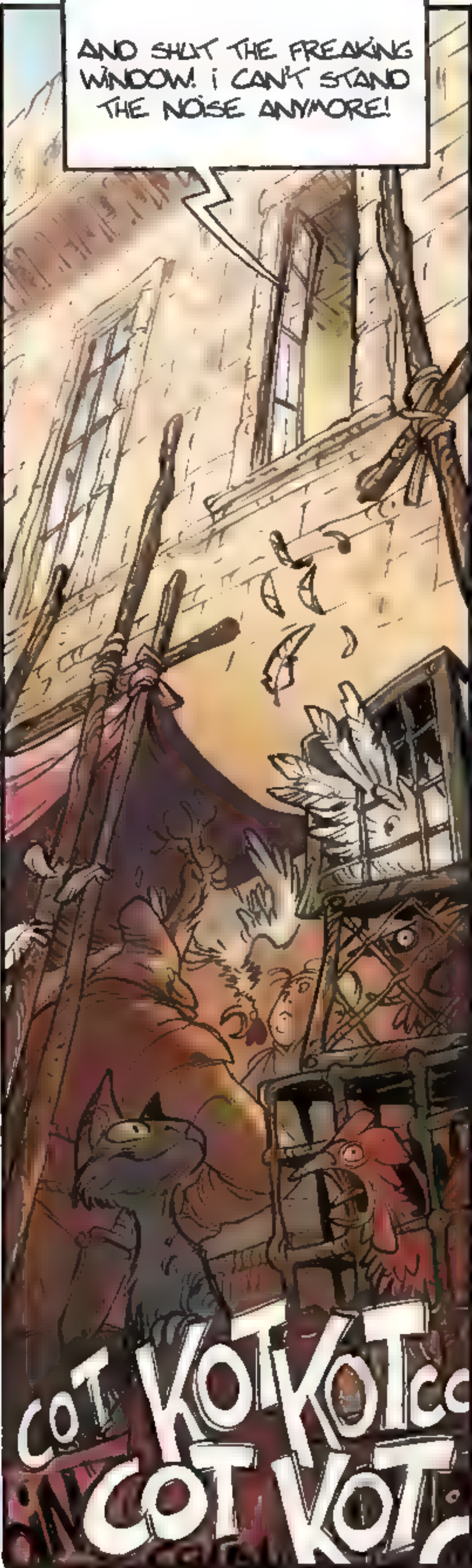
BAM





36 QUAI DES ORFÈVRES IS THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON EKHO TOO. AND IT'S IMPERIAL POLICE, HERE. WE CALL THE COPS "CHICKEN", BECAUSE OF THE POULTRY MARKET THAT STILL EXISTS BENEATH THE WINDOWS.

BRING THE GIRL TO MY OFFICE.



AND SHUT THE FREAKING WINDOW! I CAN'T STAND THE NOISE ANYMORE!



SO, YOU WANTED TO KILL THE EMPEROR?

NOT AT ALL I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE GUY!

YOU FORCED YOUR WAY INTO HIS APARTMENTS AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF THE ATTACK! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT? MHH?



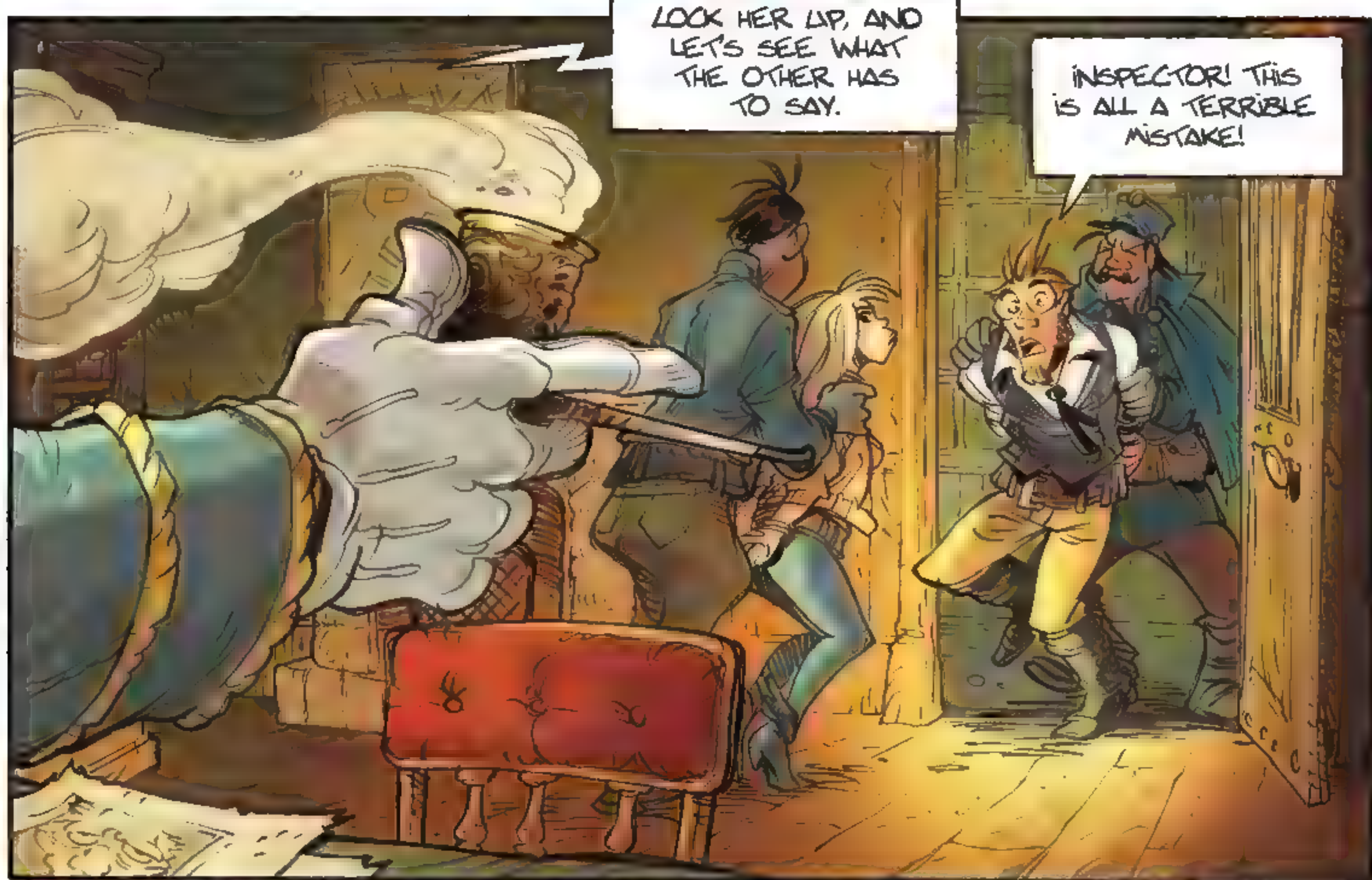
DUNNO. NO IDEA. I'VE LOST MY MEMORY BECAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING THERE.



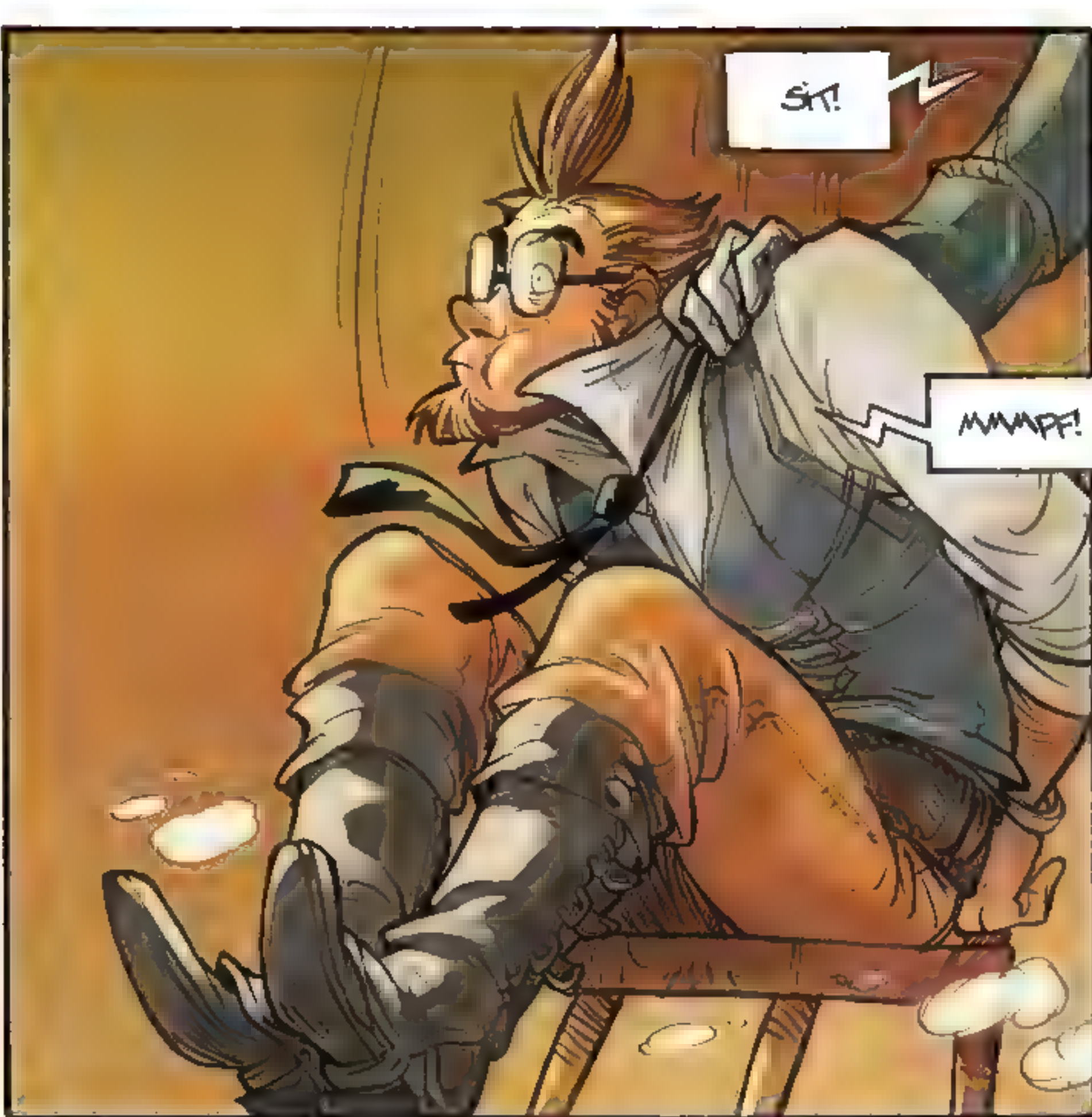
OF COURSE! HOW CONVENIENT!



LOOK HER UP, AND LET'S SEE WHAT THE OTHER HAS TO SAY.

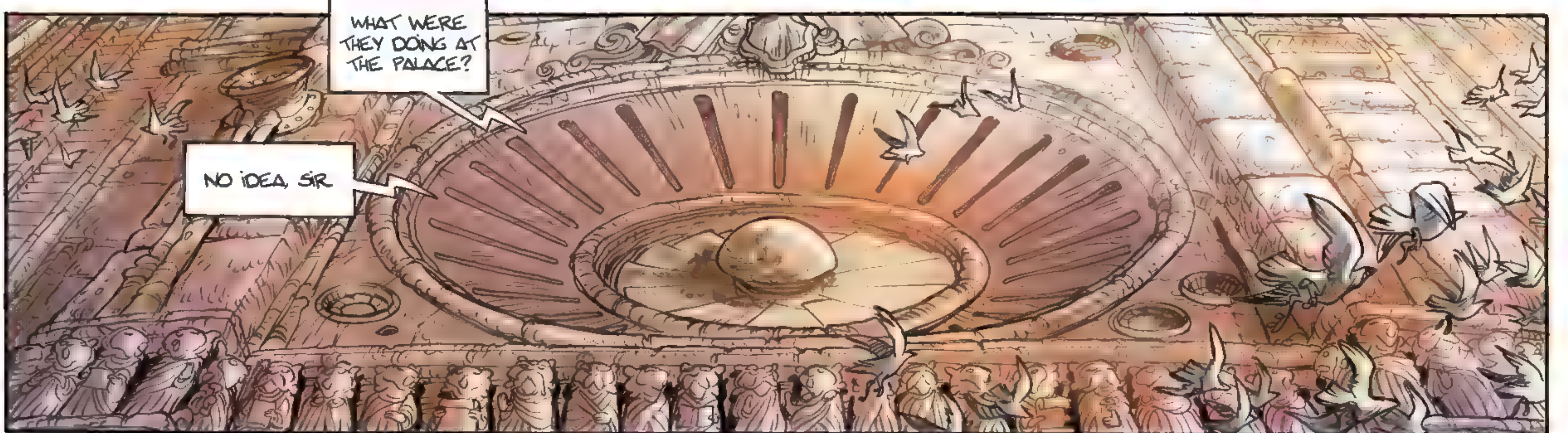
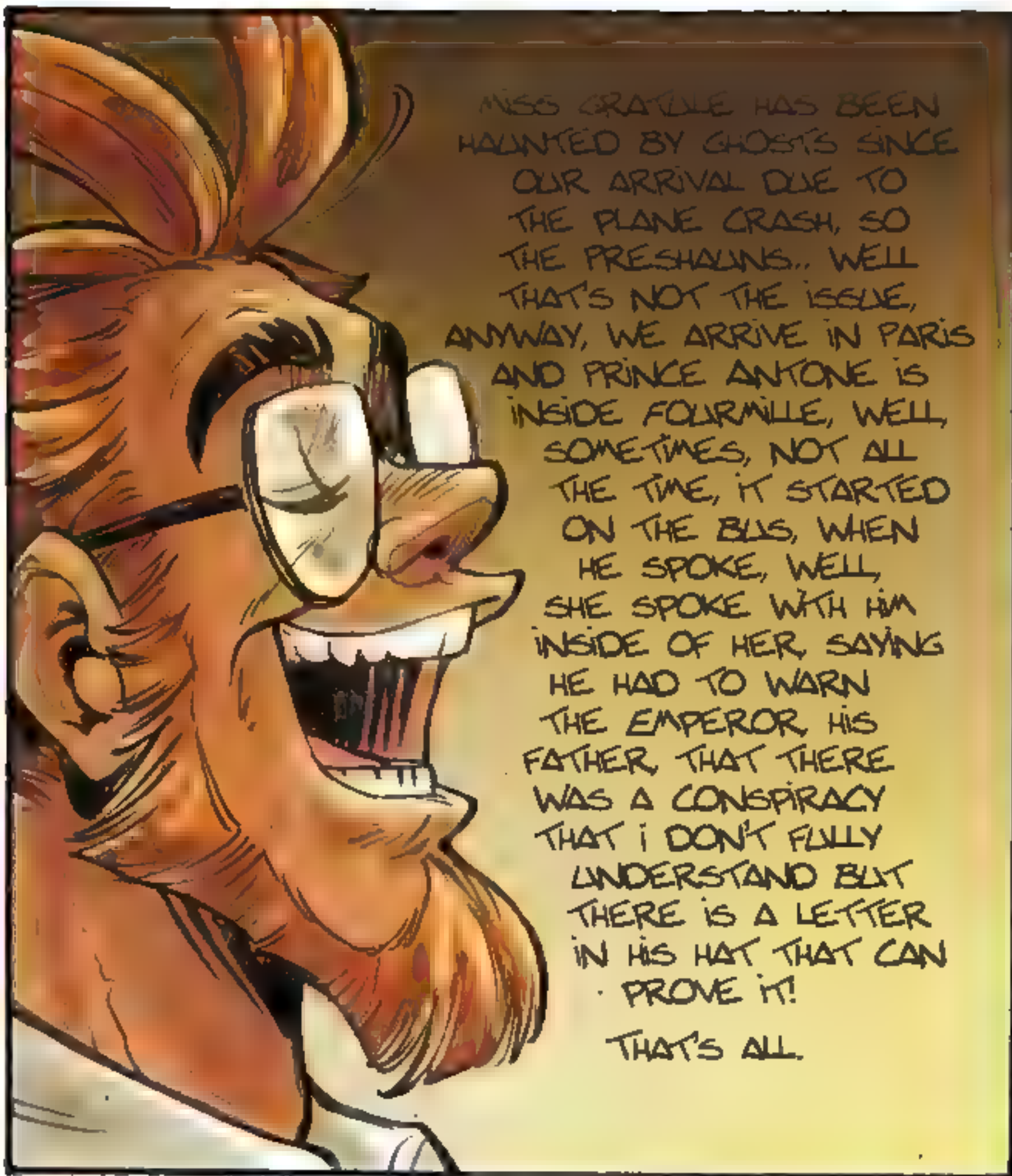
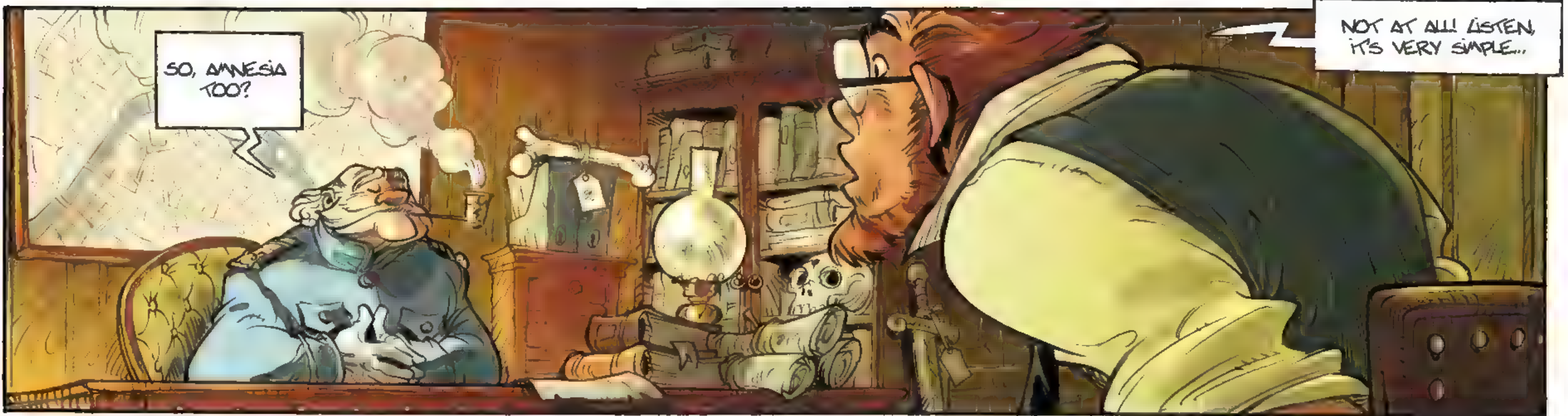


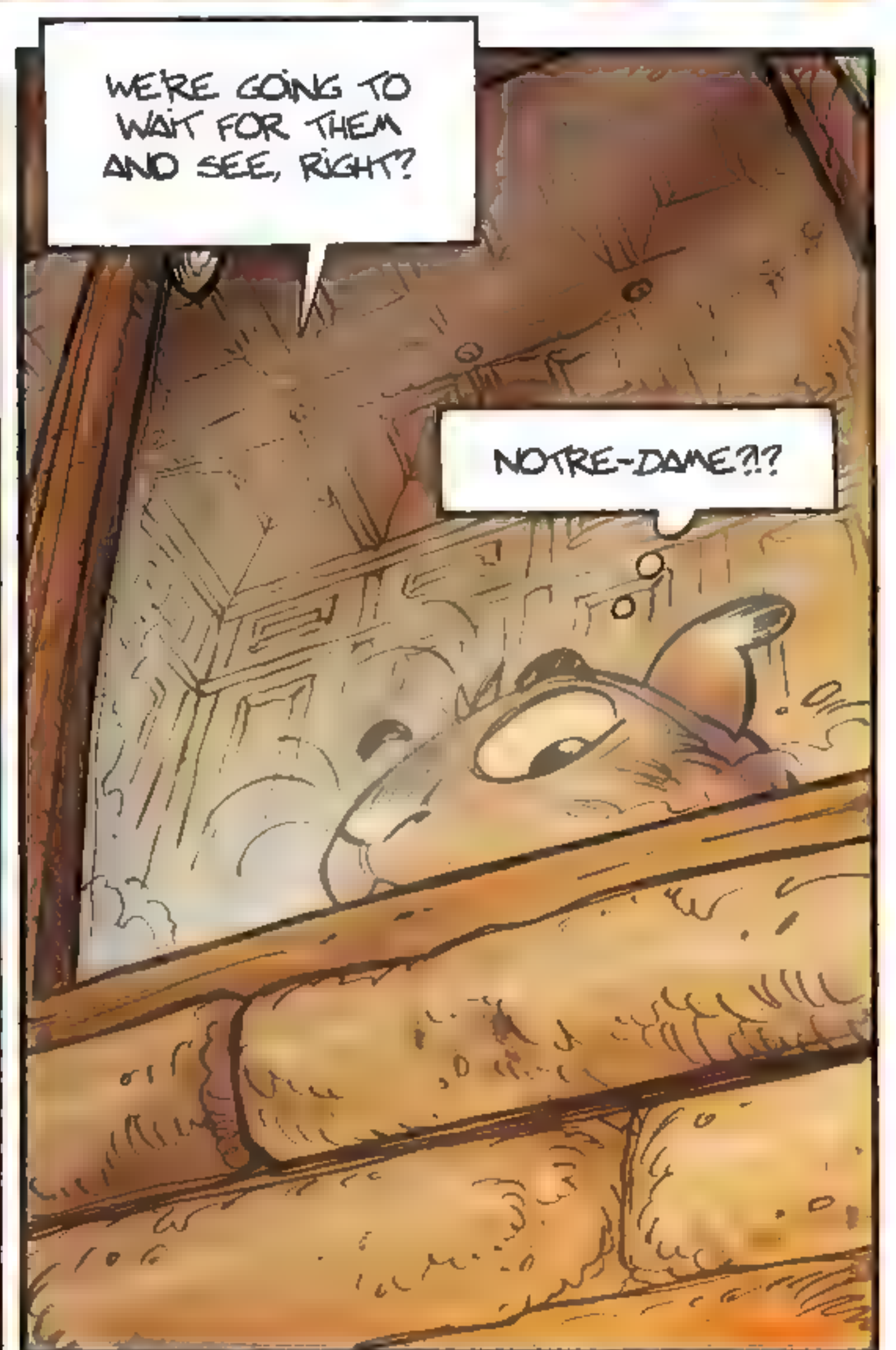
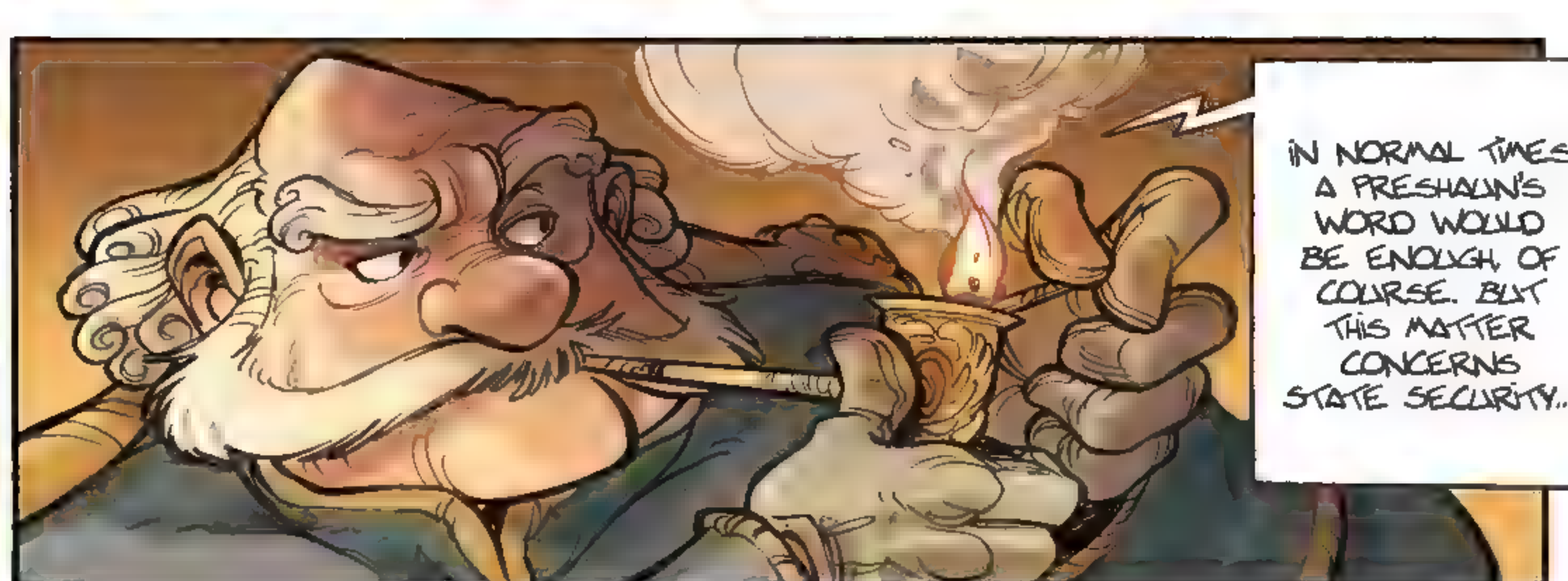
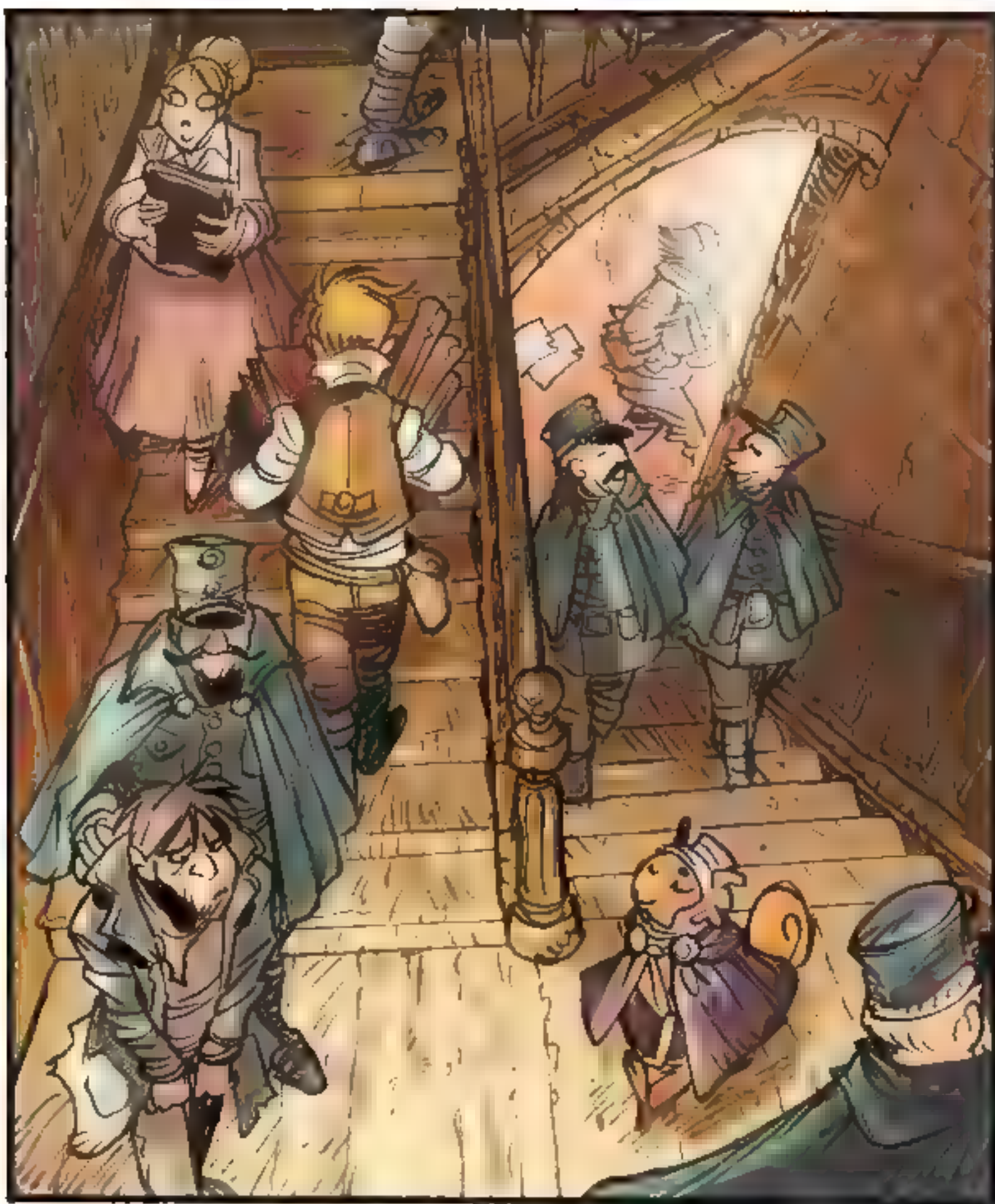
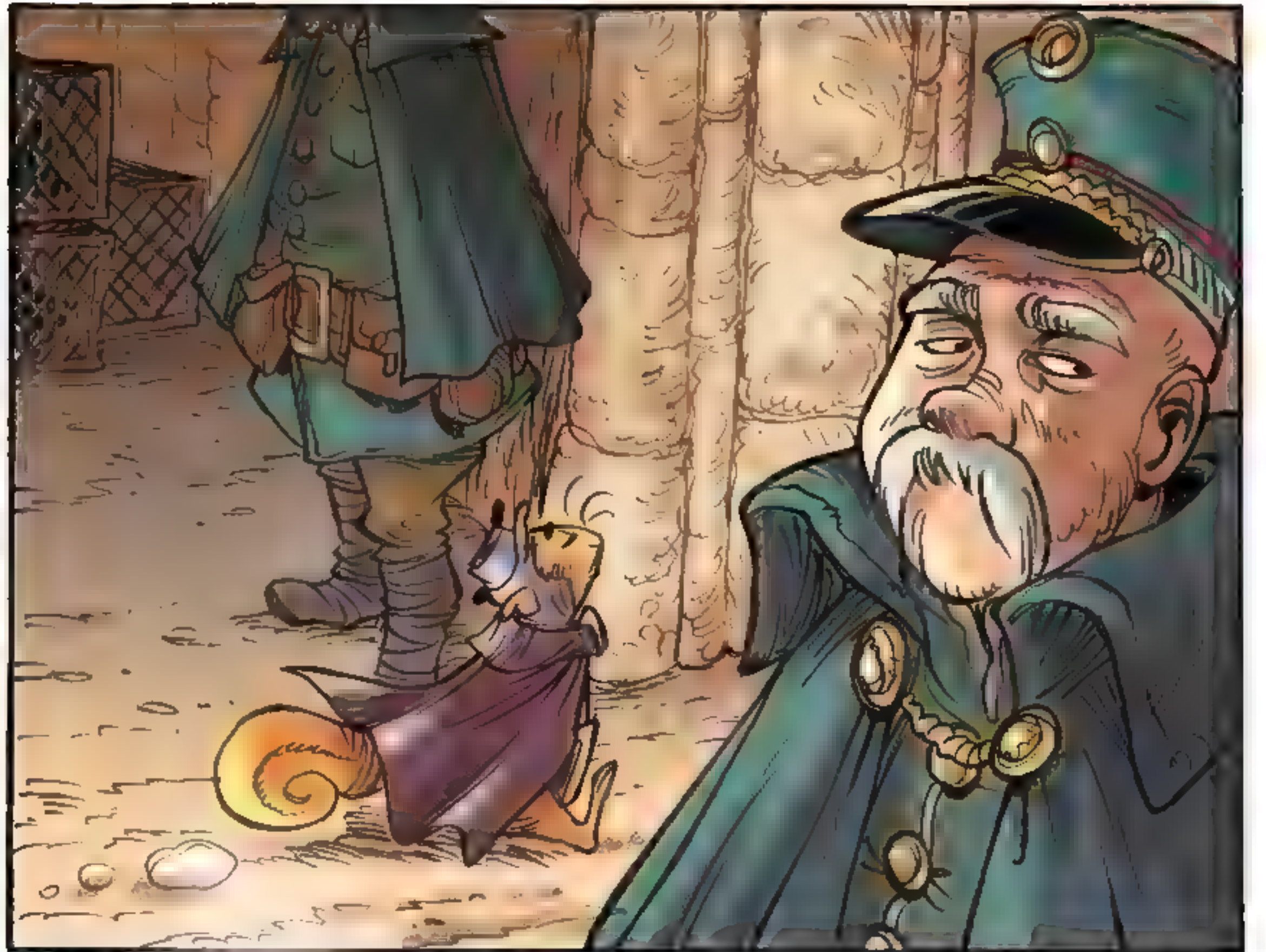
INSPECTOR! THIS IS ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!

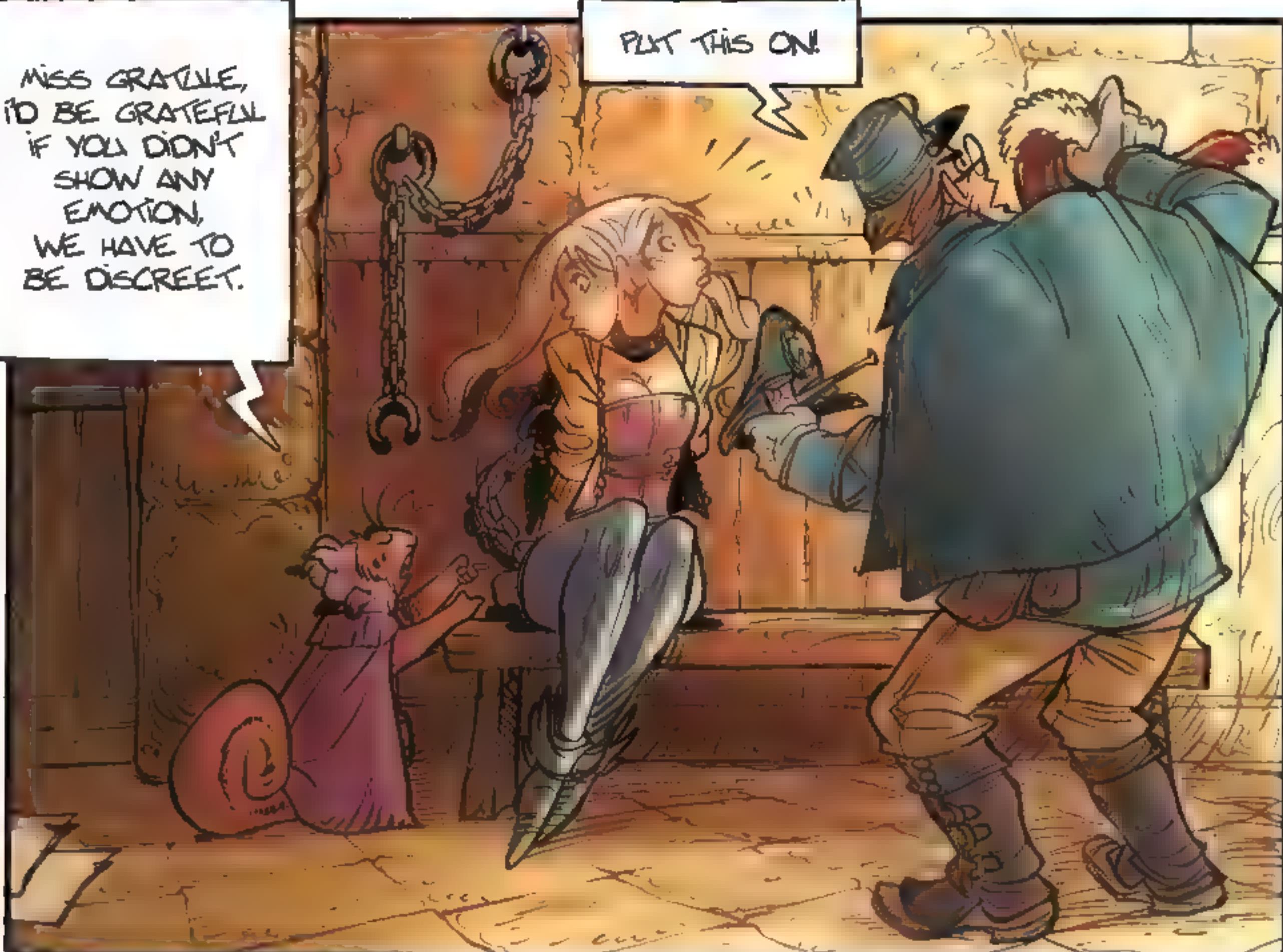
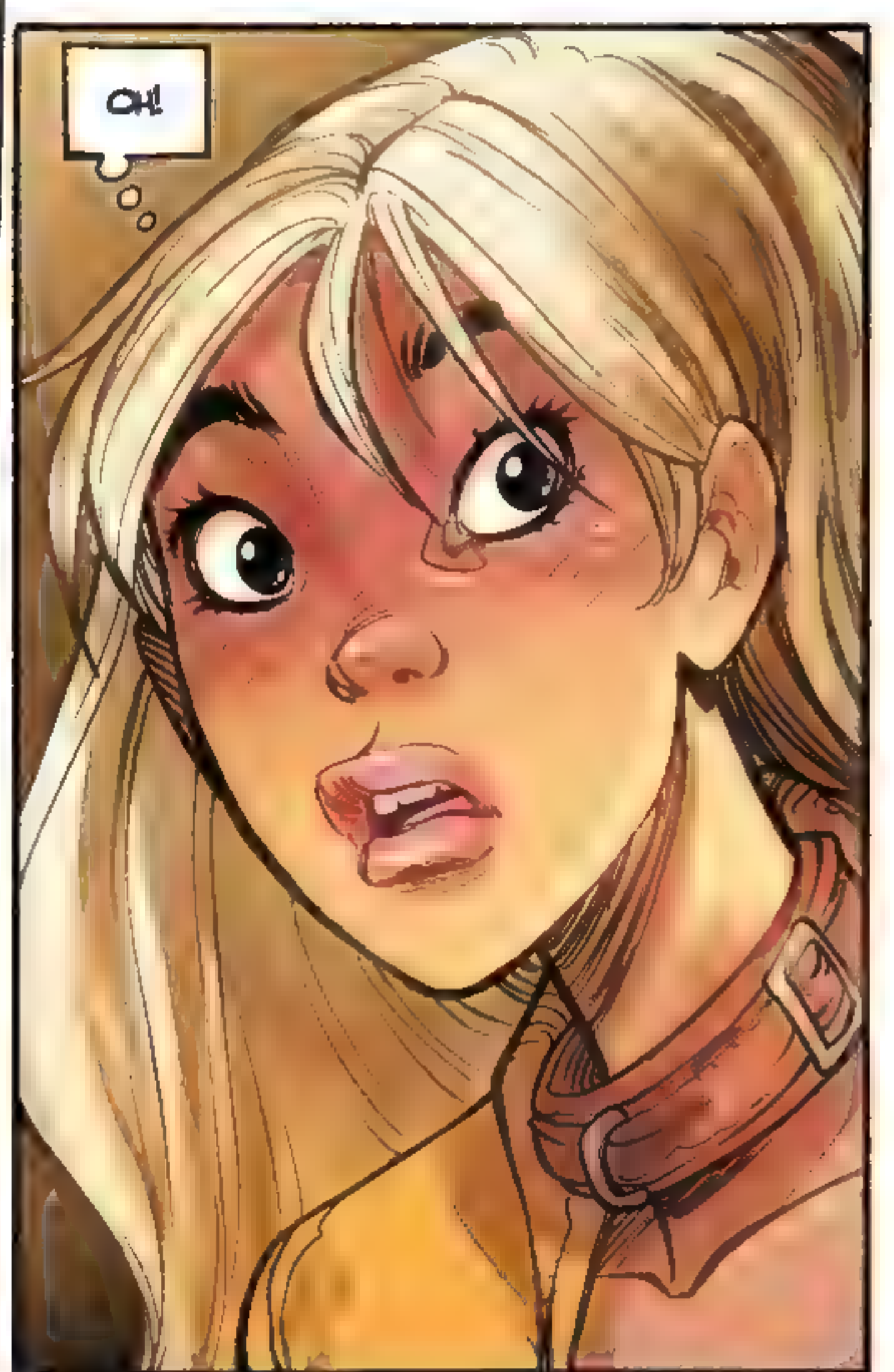
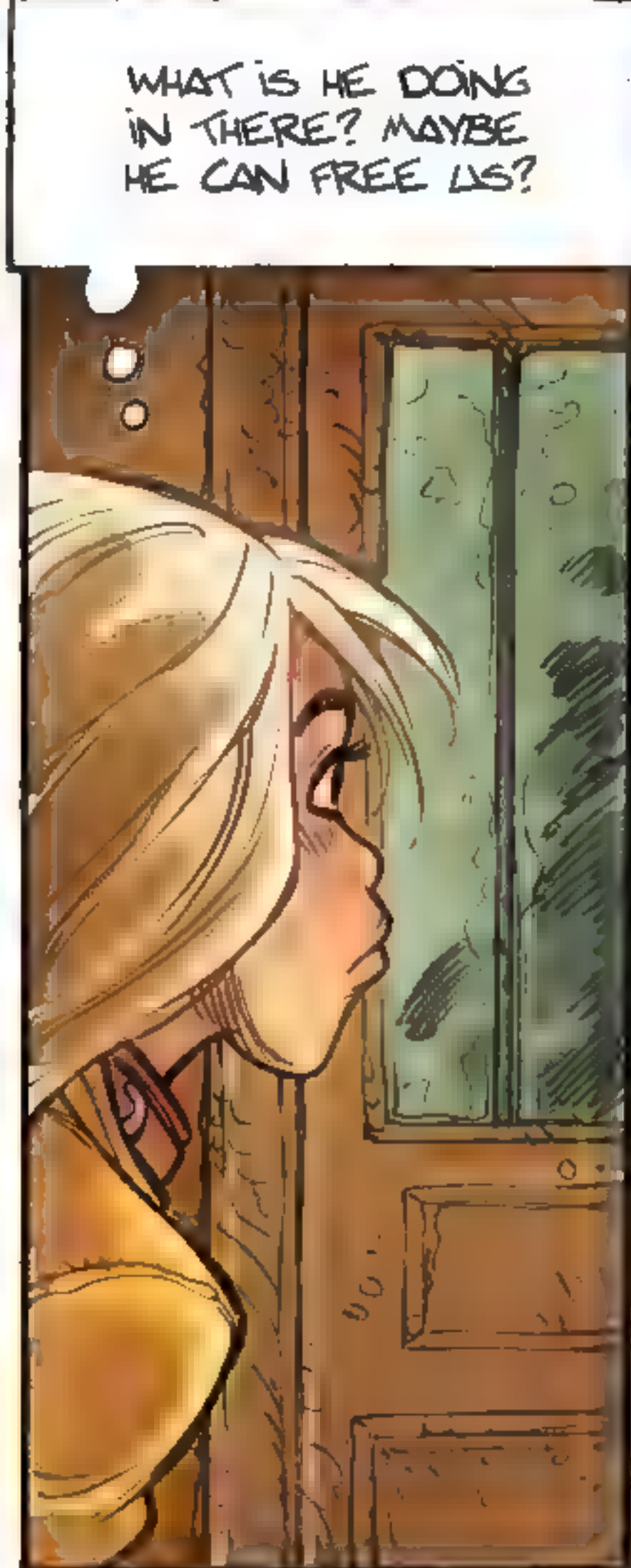
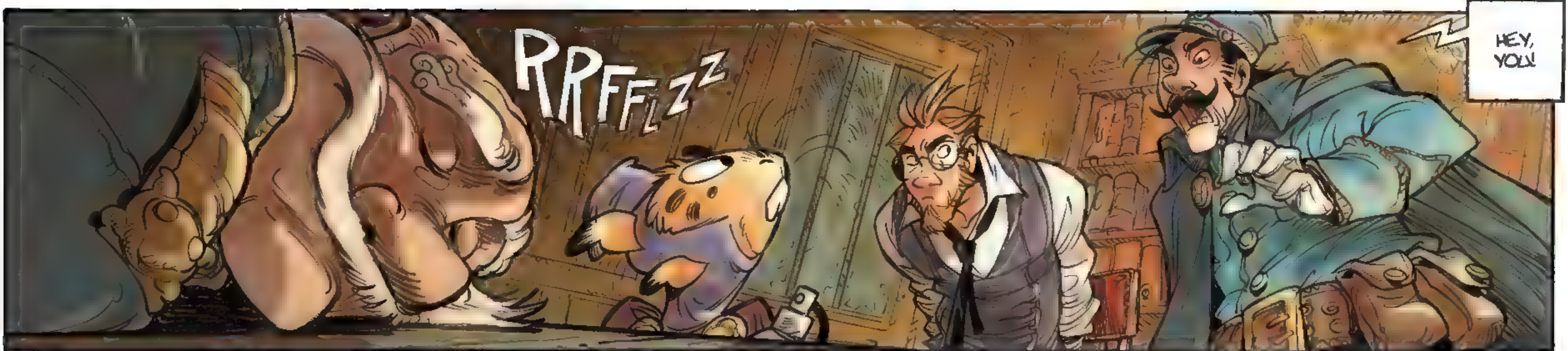
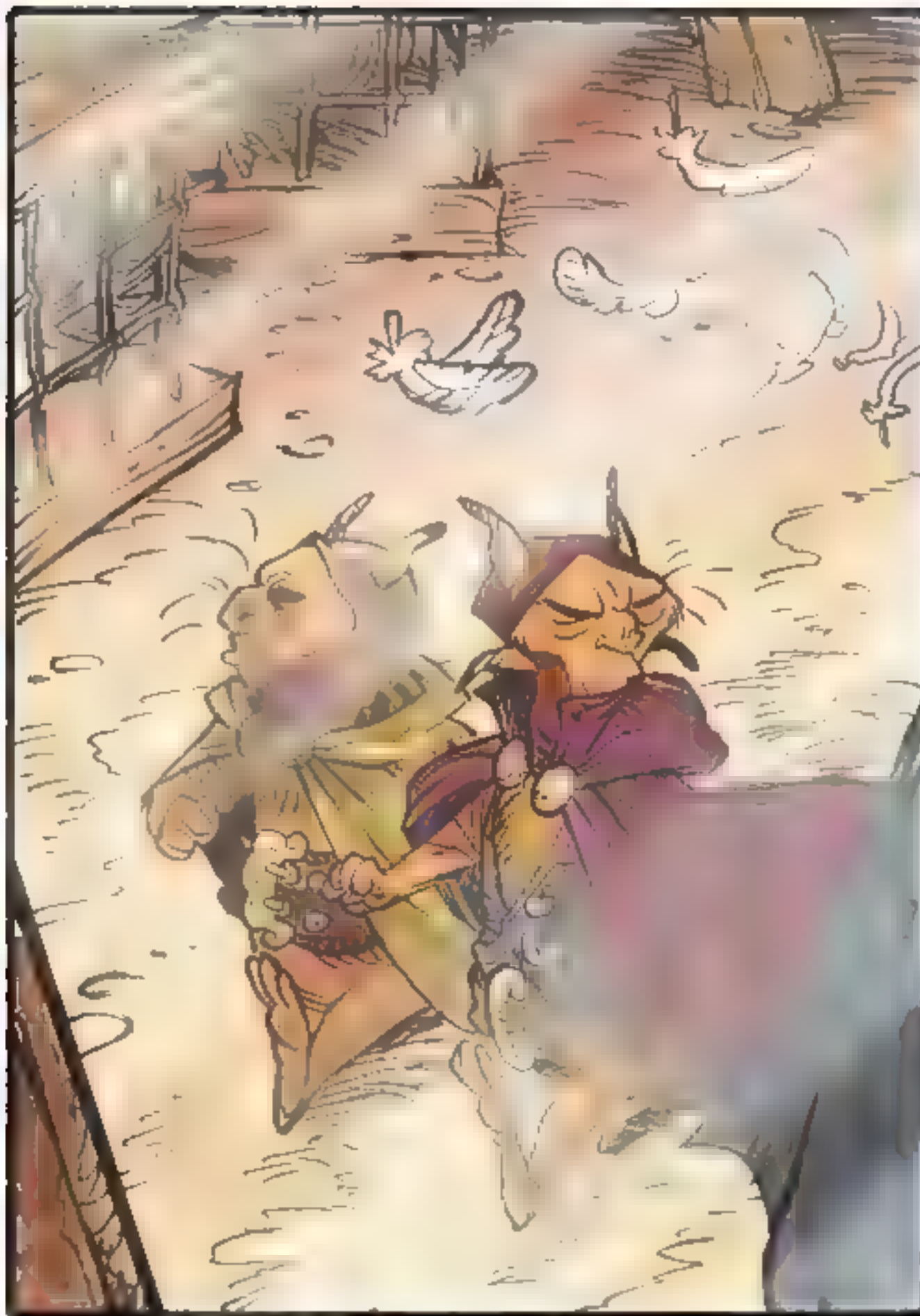


SHT!

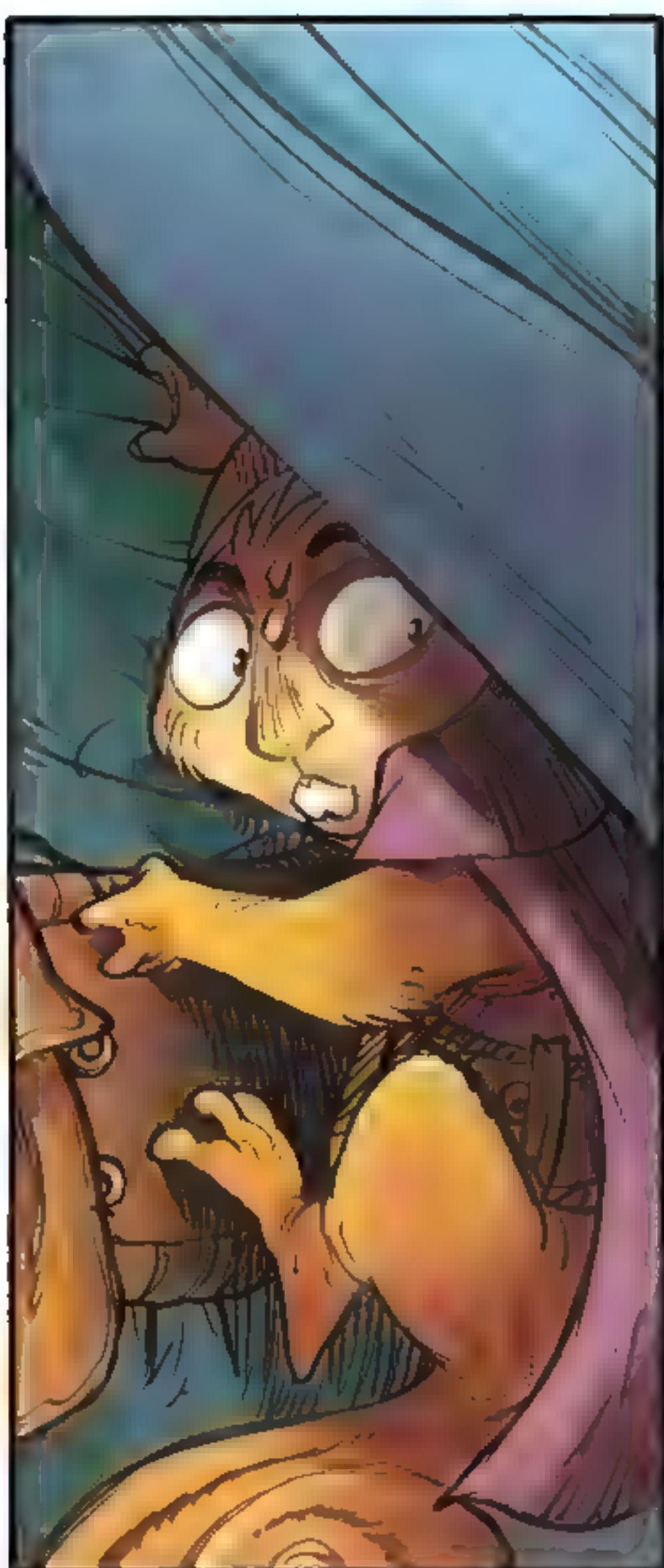
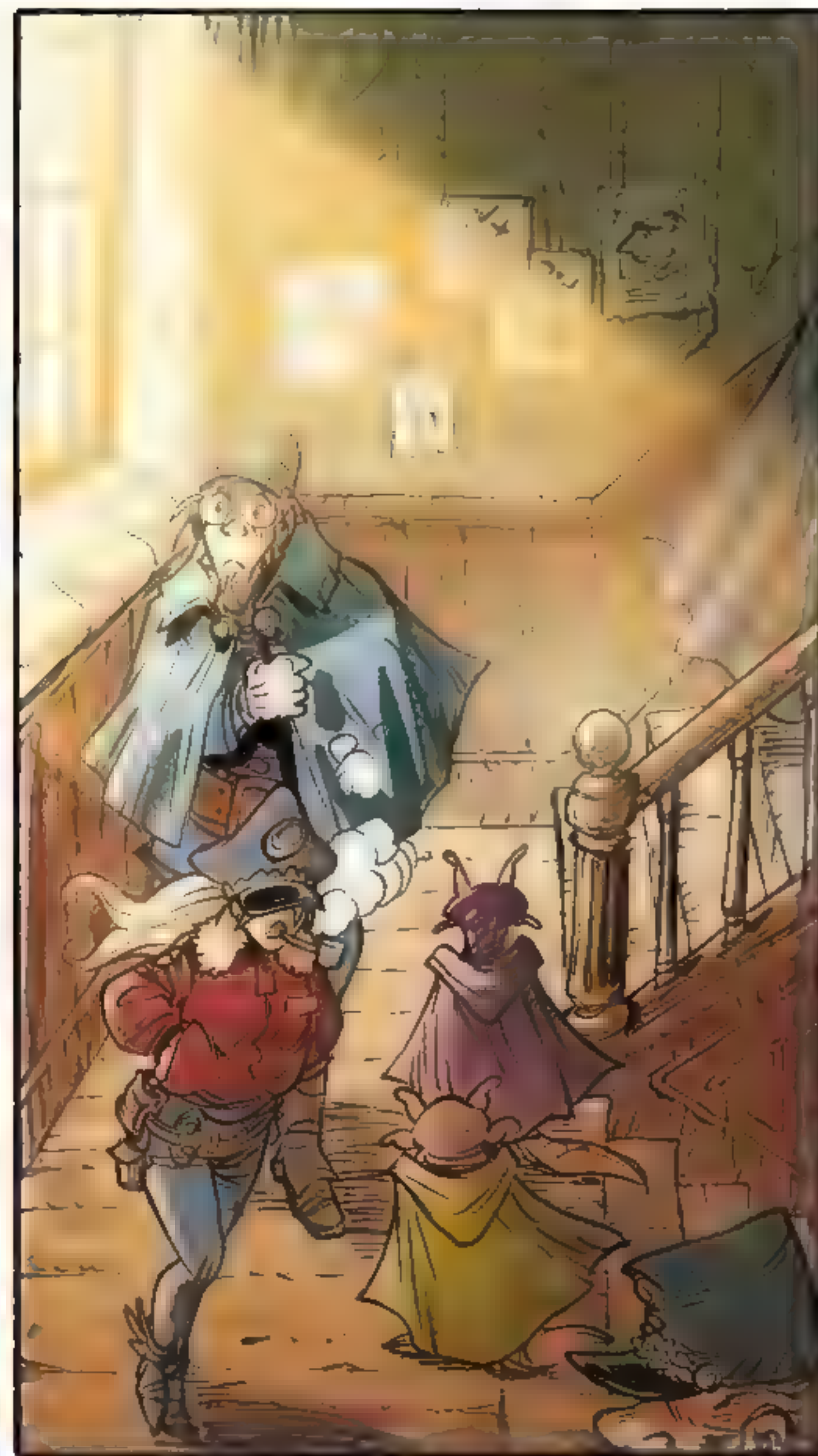
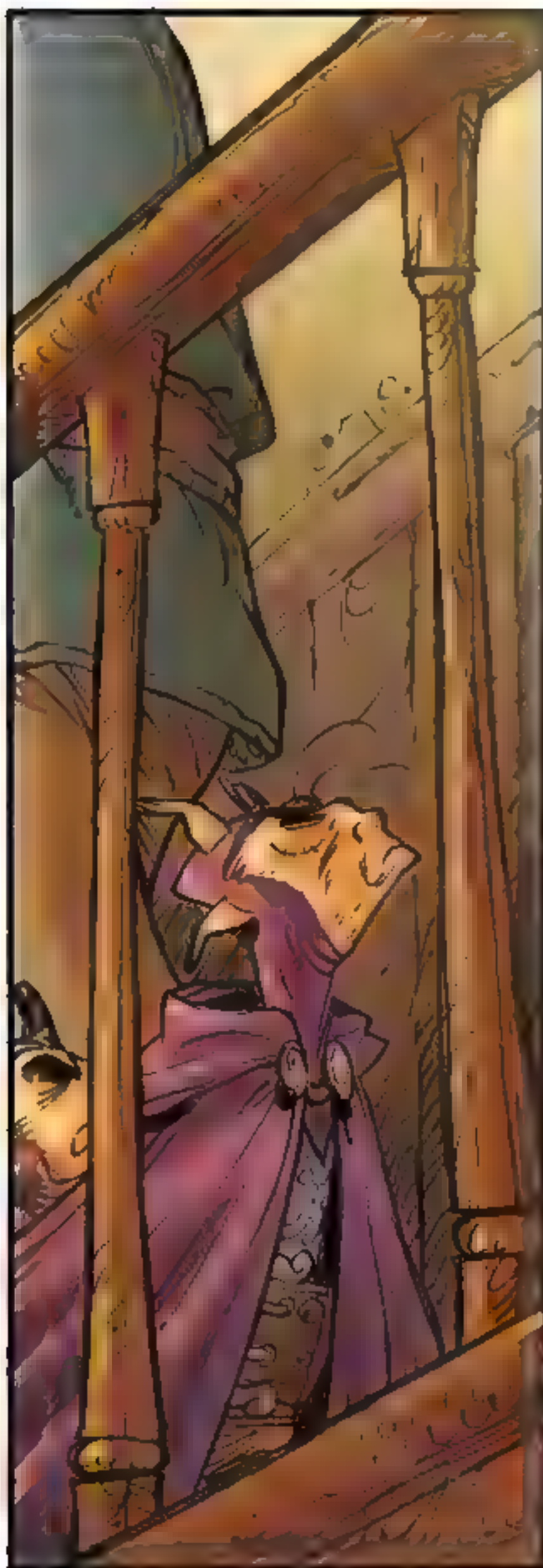
MMHFF!







HE Slobbered
ALL OVER...



WE'RE OUT,
YOU CAN
HOP DOWN.

I AM NOT
USED TO
THESE THINGS!
I NEED TEA!
LOTS OF TEA!



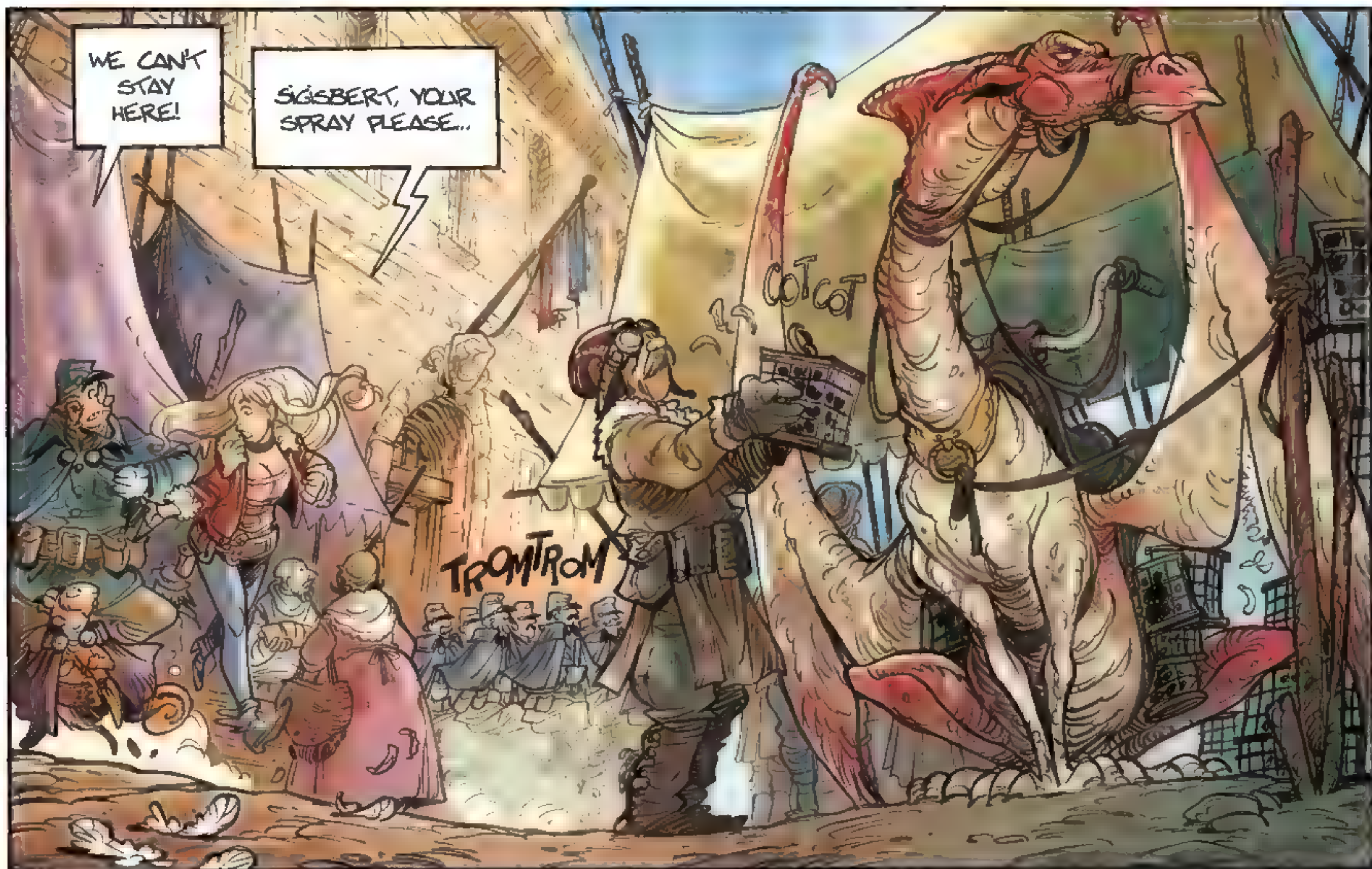
THEY CAN'T
BE FAR!

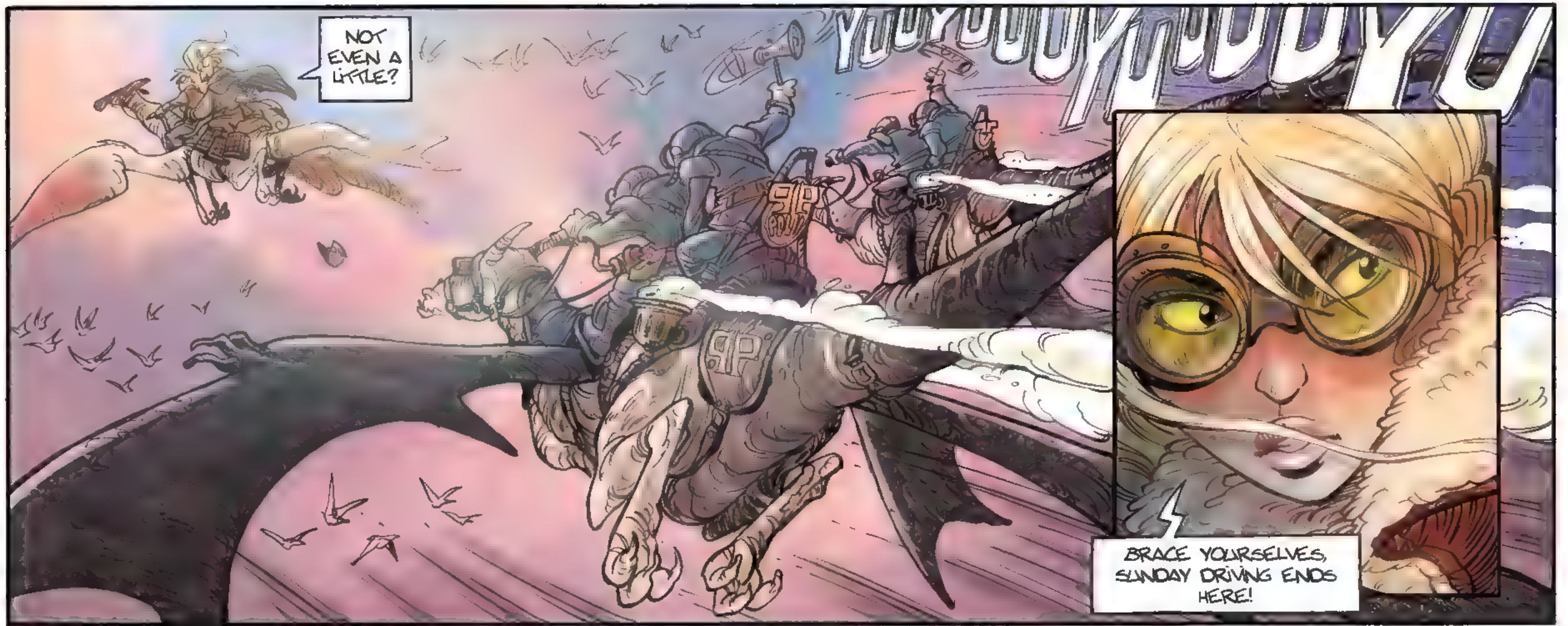
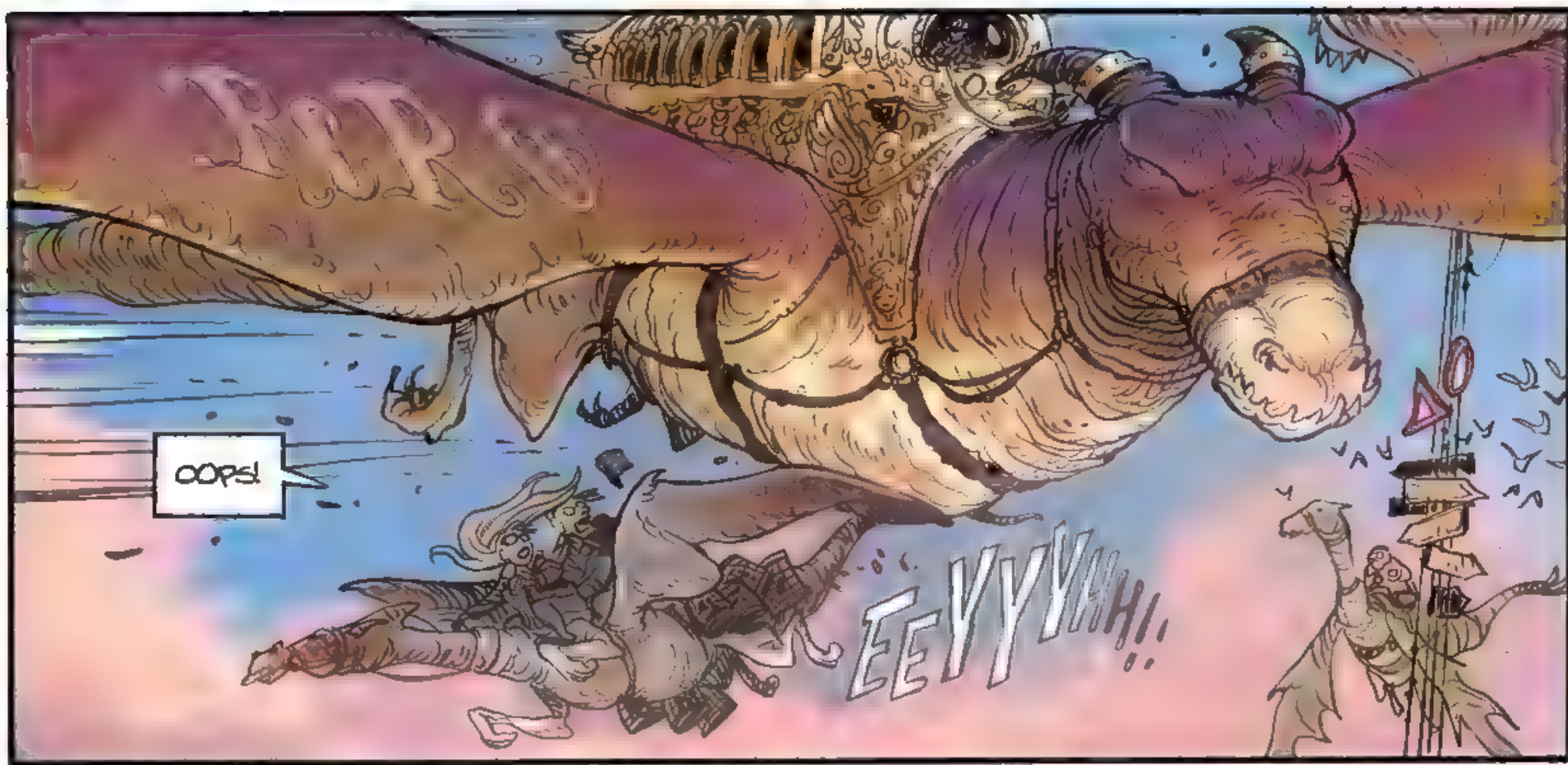
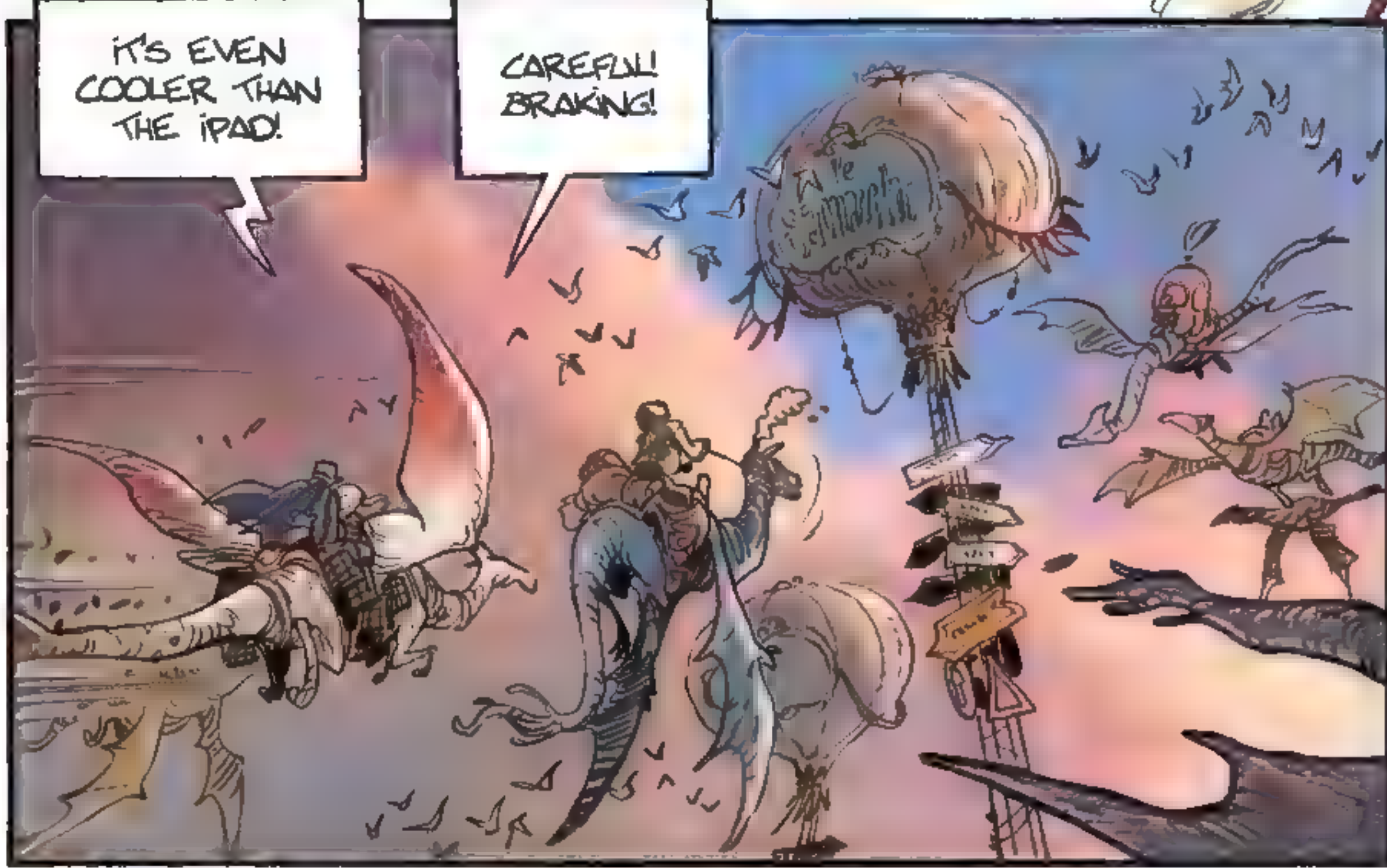
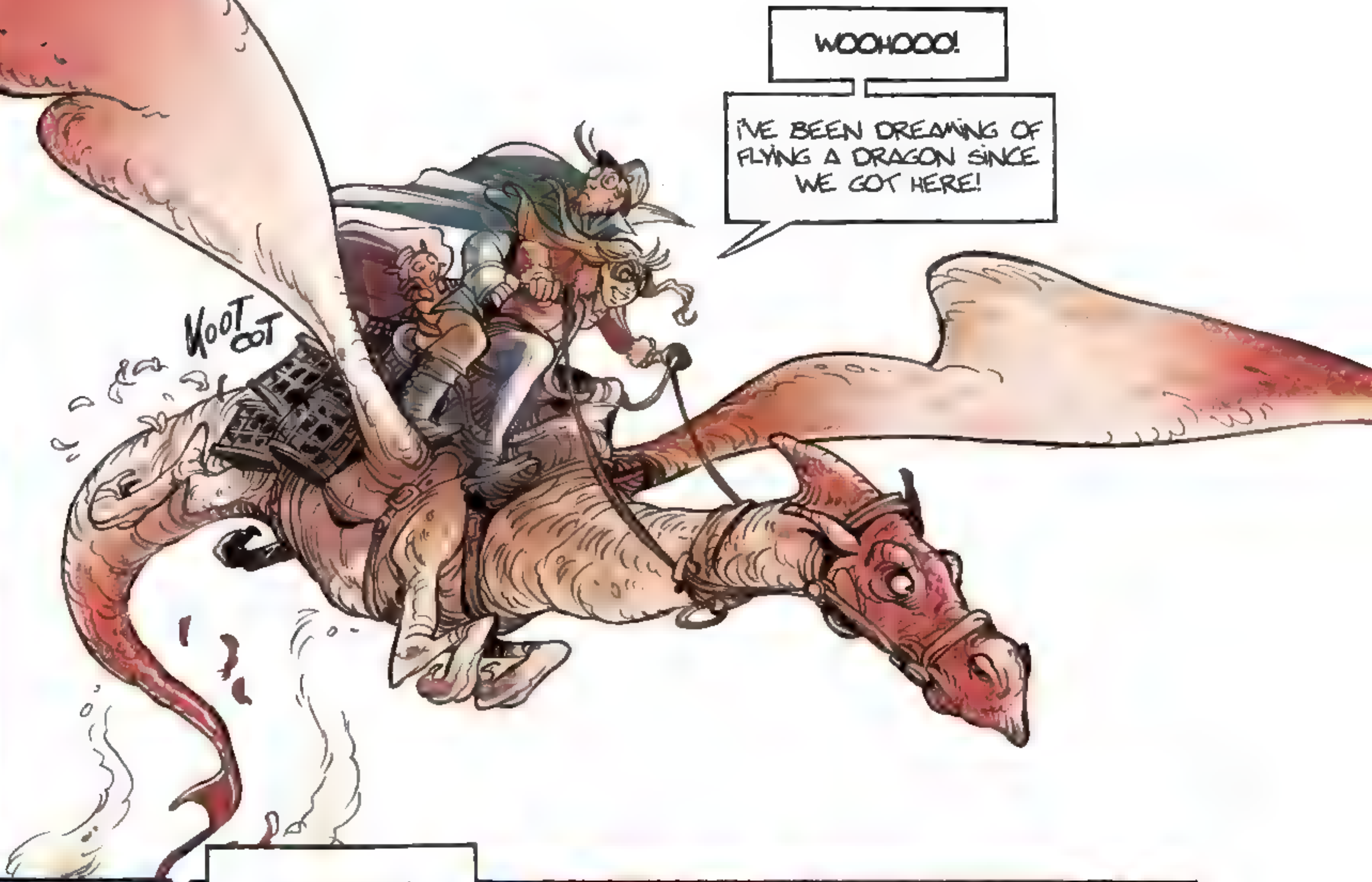
ALERT!



WE CAN'T
STAY
HERE!

SIGSBERT, YOUR
SPRAY PLEASE...







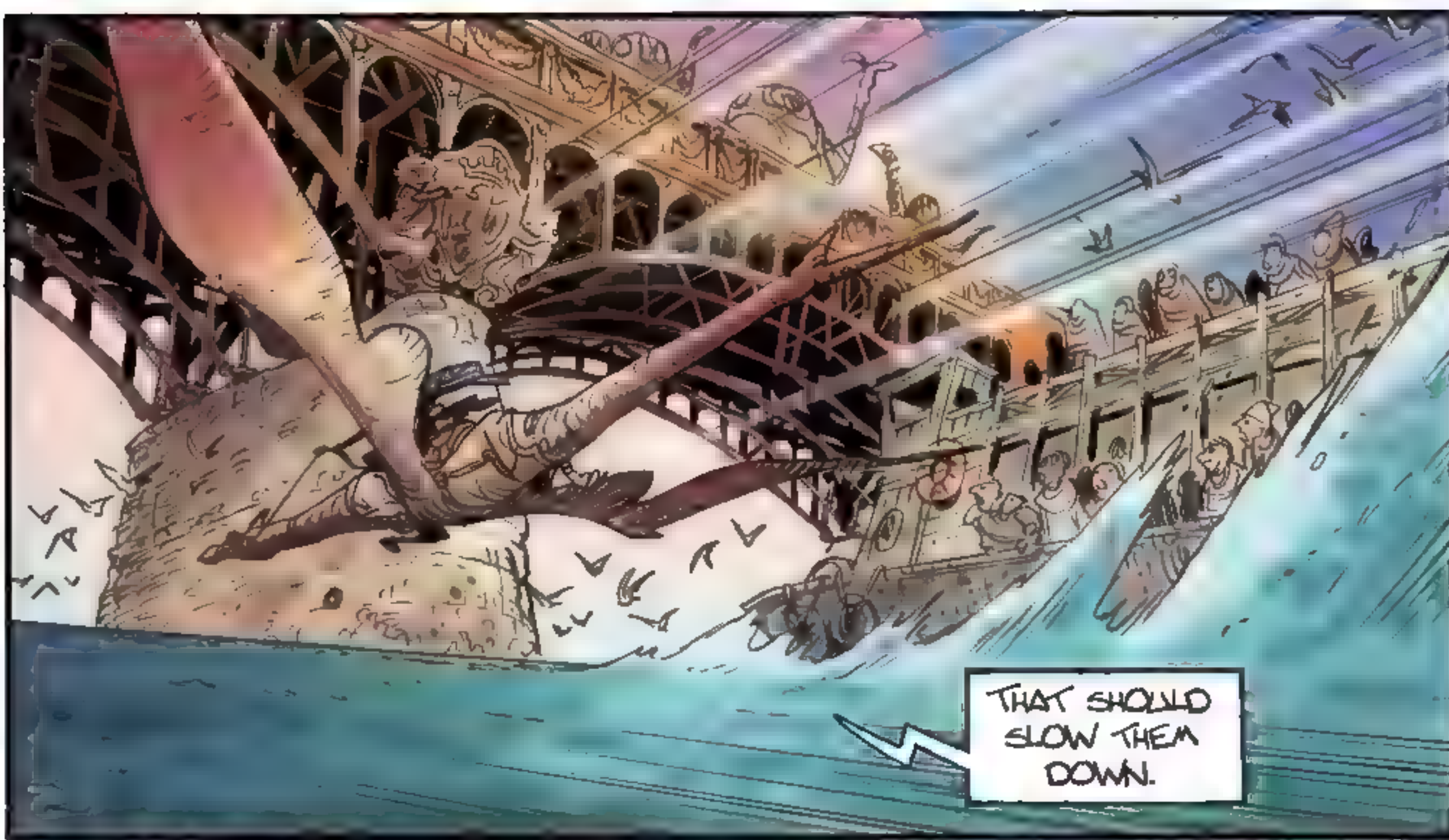
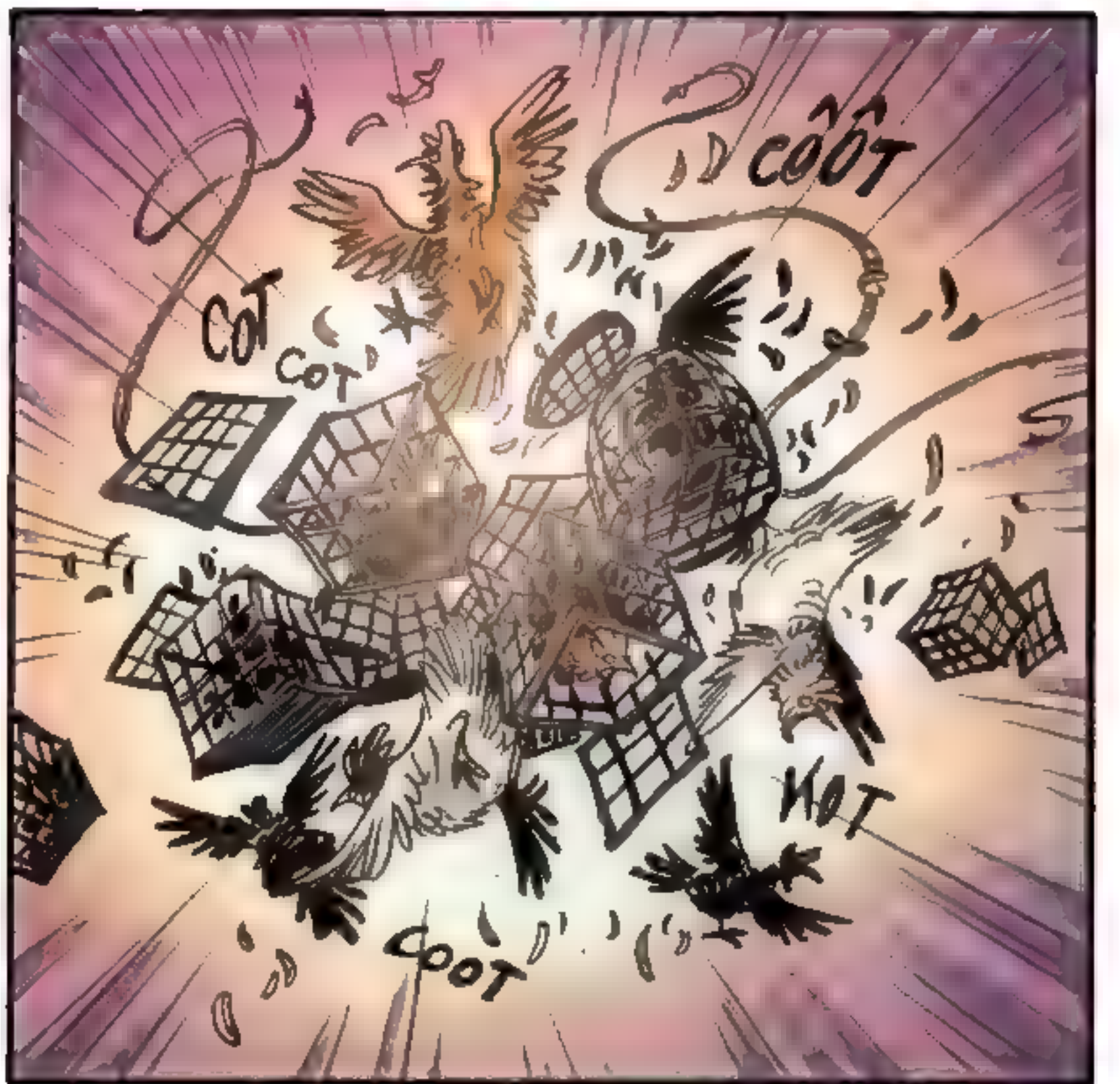
I WANT TEAAAAA!



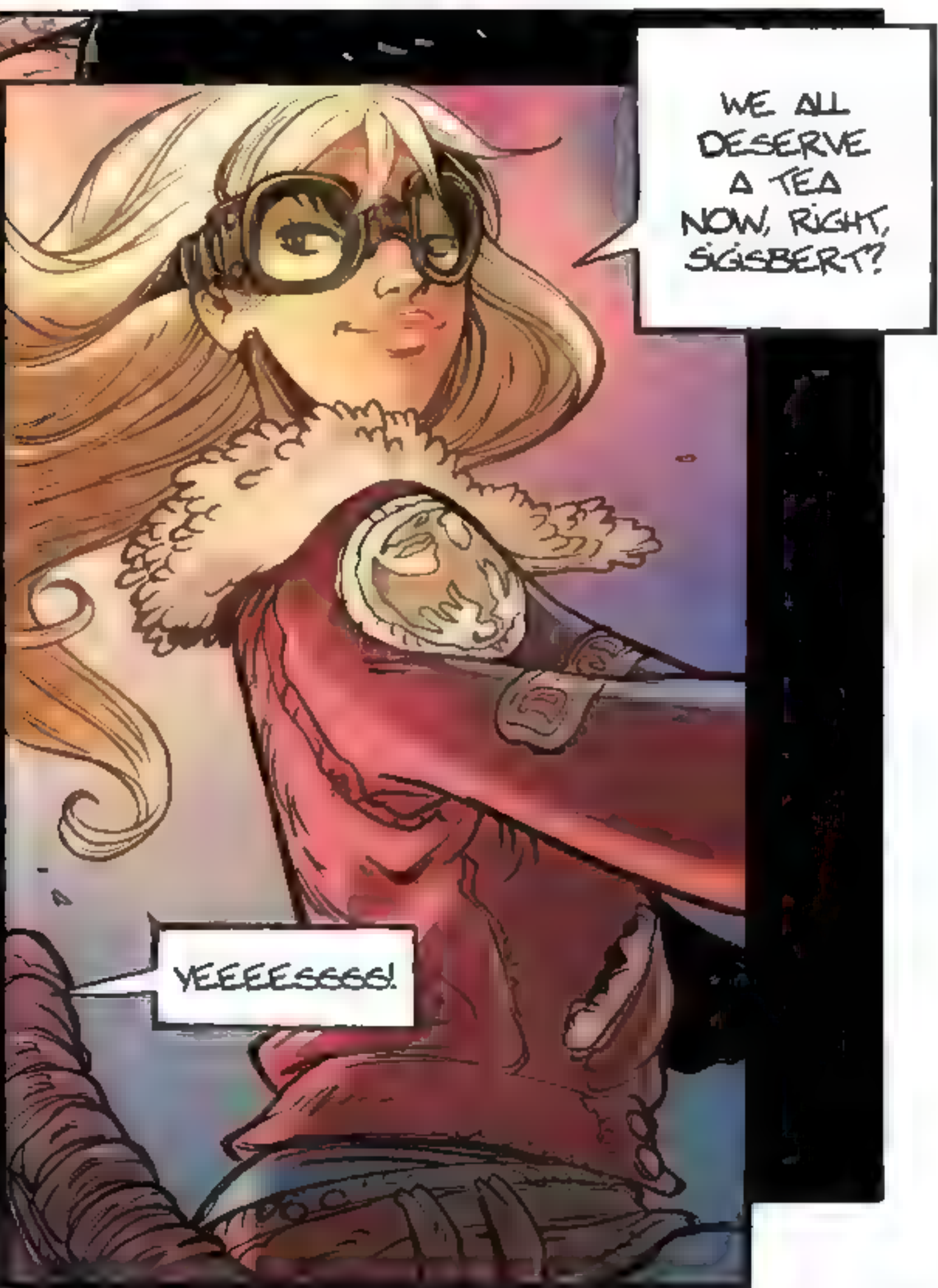
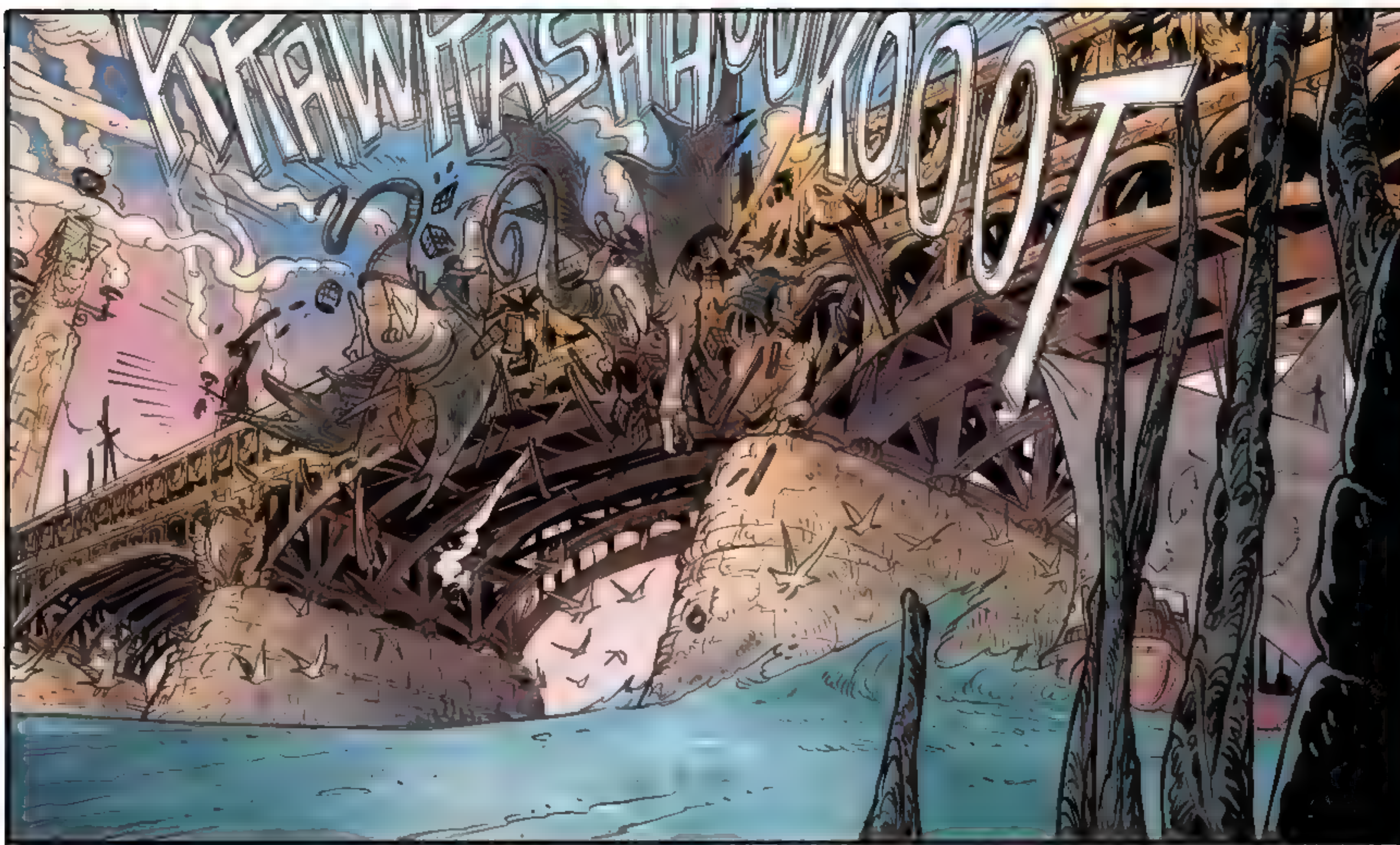
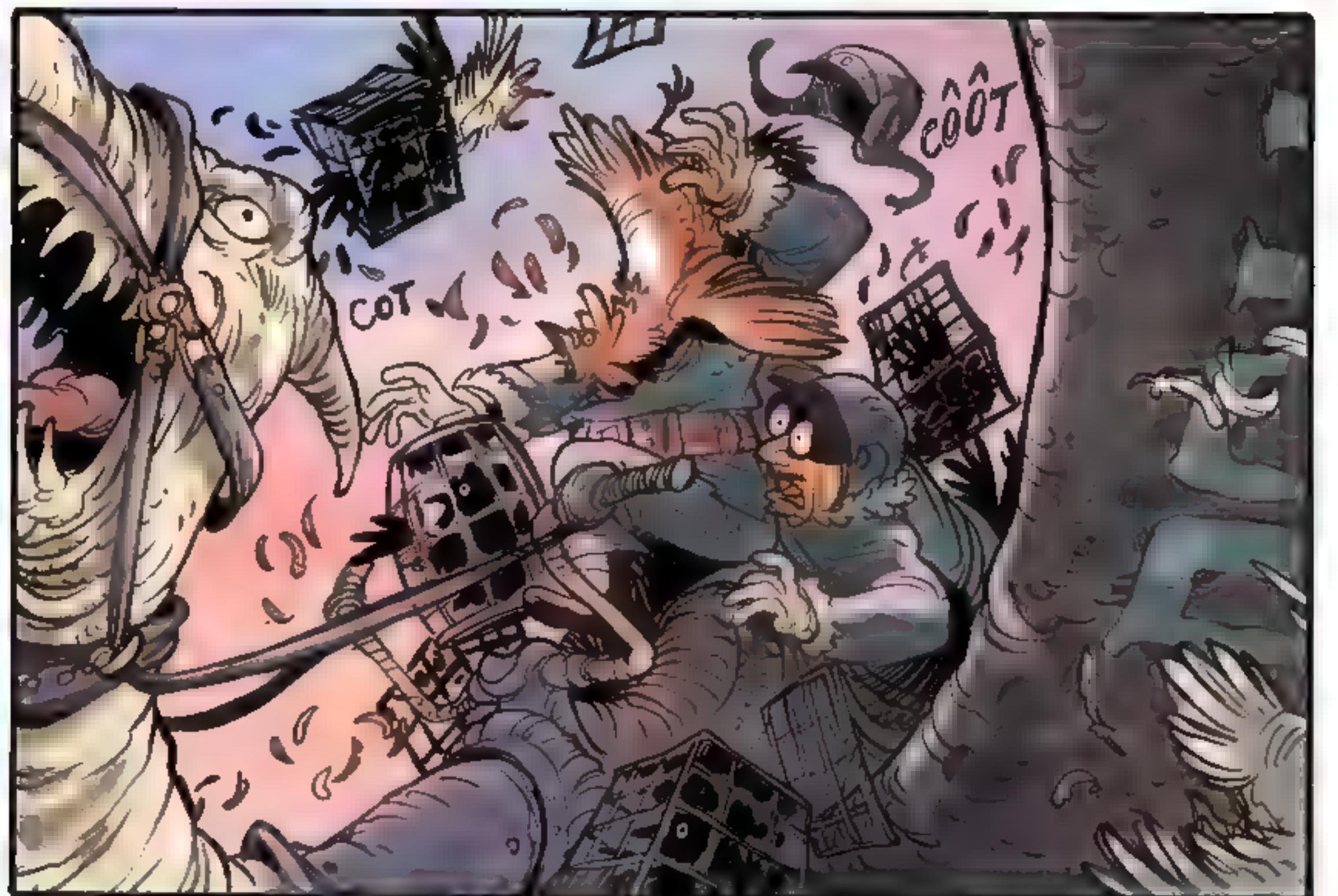
LET'S SHED SOME WEIGHT...



OH OH...



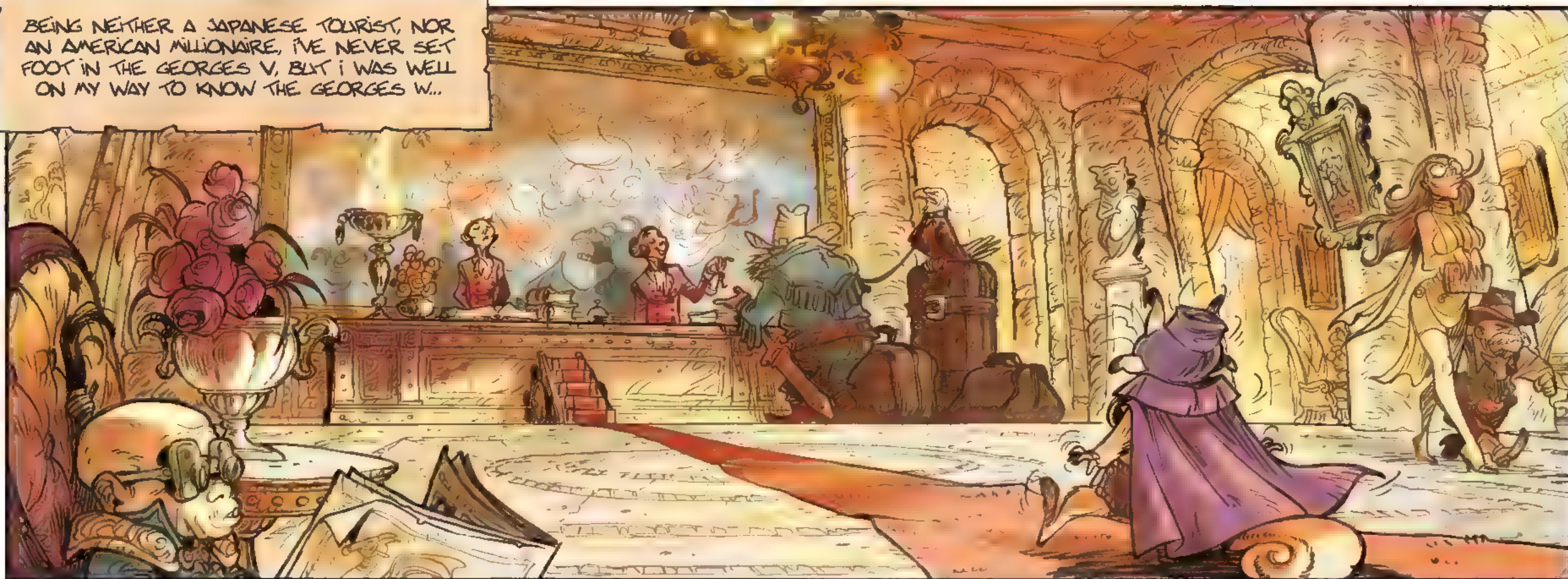
THAT SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN.



WE ALL DESERVE A TEA NOW, RIGHT, SIGSBERT?

VEEEEESSSS!

BEING NEITHER A JAPANESE TOURIST, NOR AN AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE, I'VE NEVER SET FOOT IN THE GEORGES V, BUT I WAS WELL ON MY WAY TO KNOW THE GEORGES W...



YUMMY AND YUMMA'S SUITE, PLEASE.



WITH PLEASURE, IT'S 427.



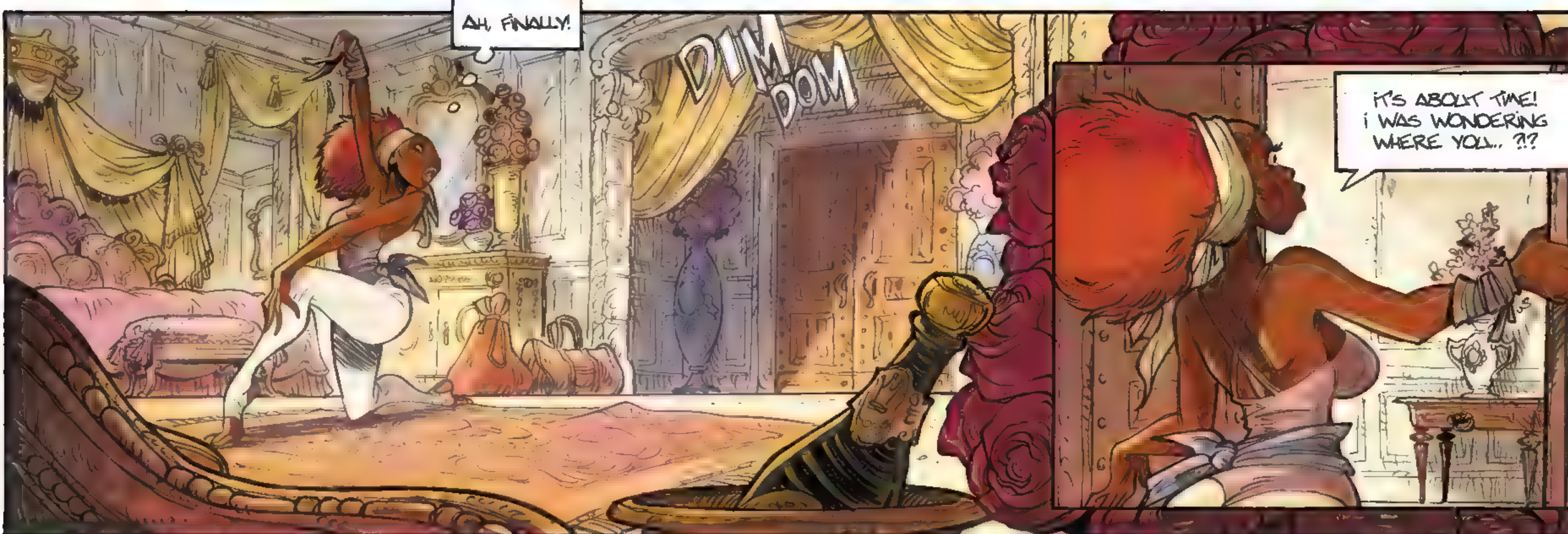
SEND UP SOME TEA

PLENTY.

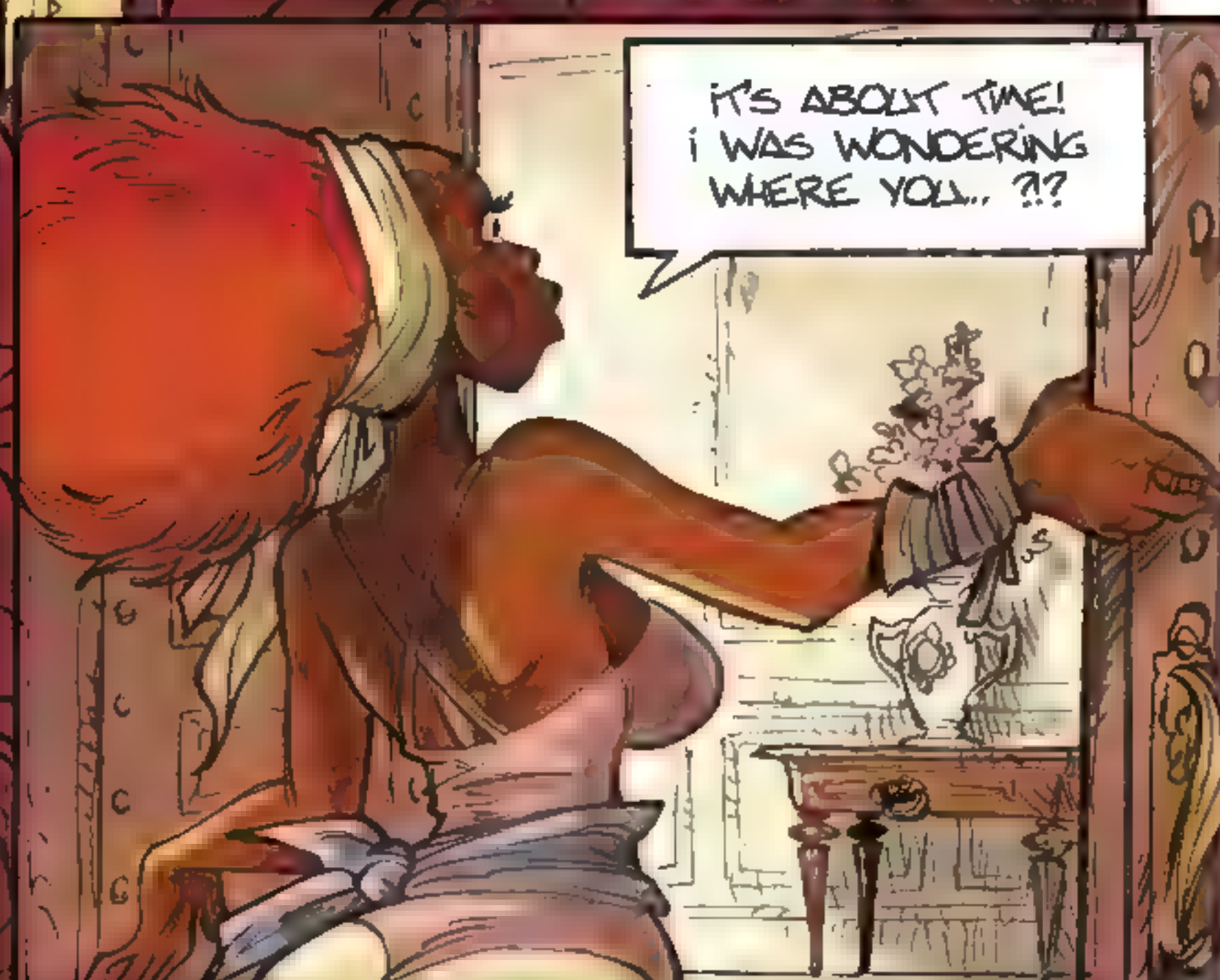
VERY STRONG.



AH, FINALLY!



IT'S ABOUT TIME! I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU... ??



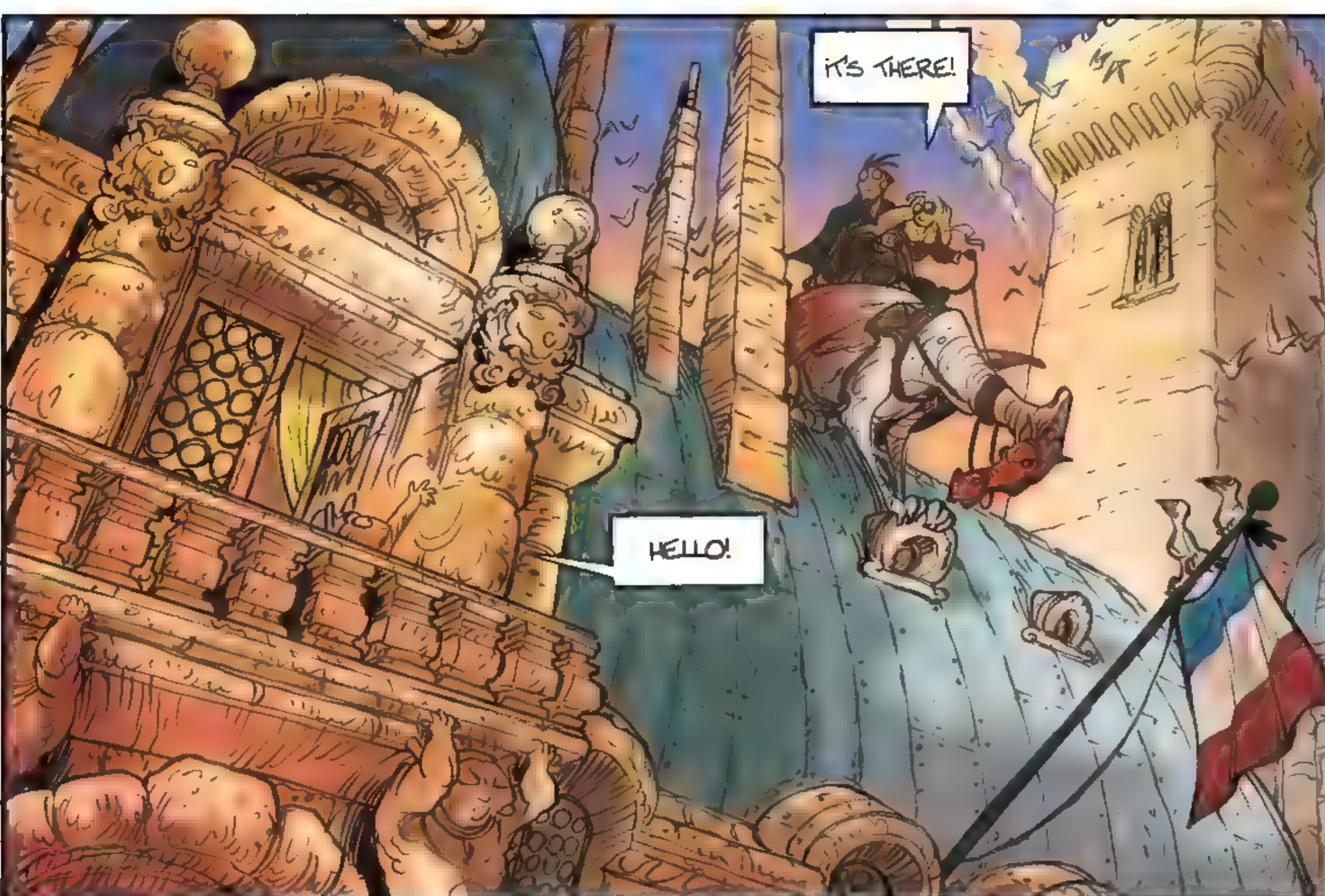
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE...

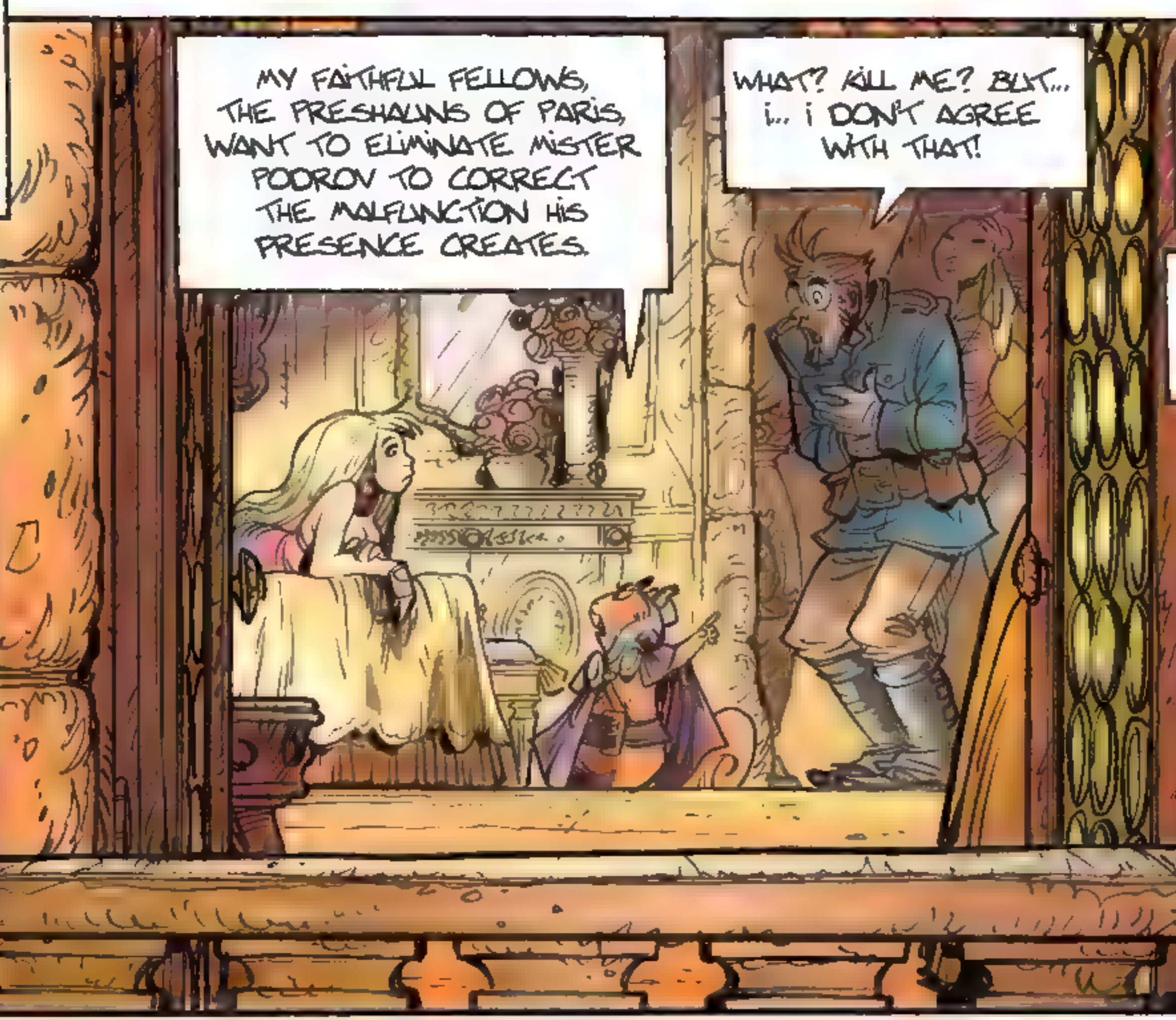
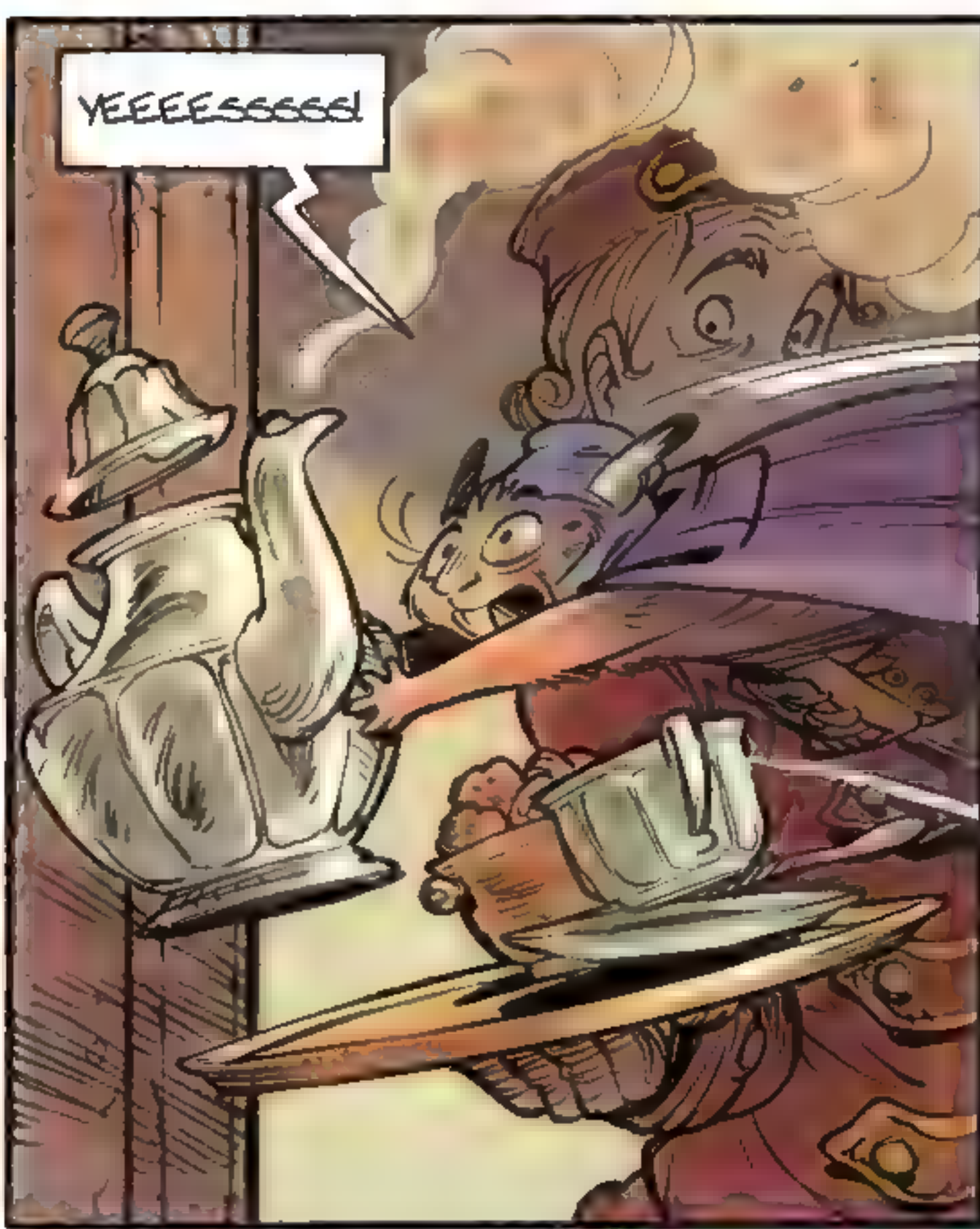
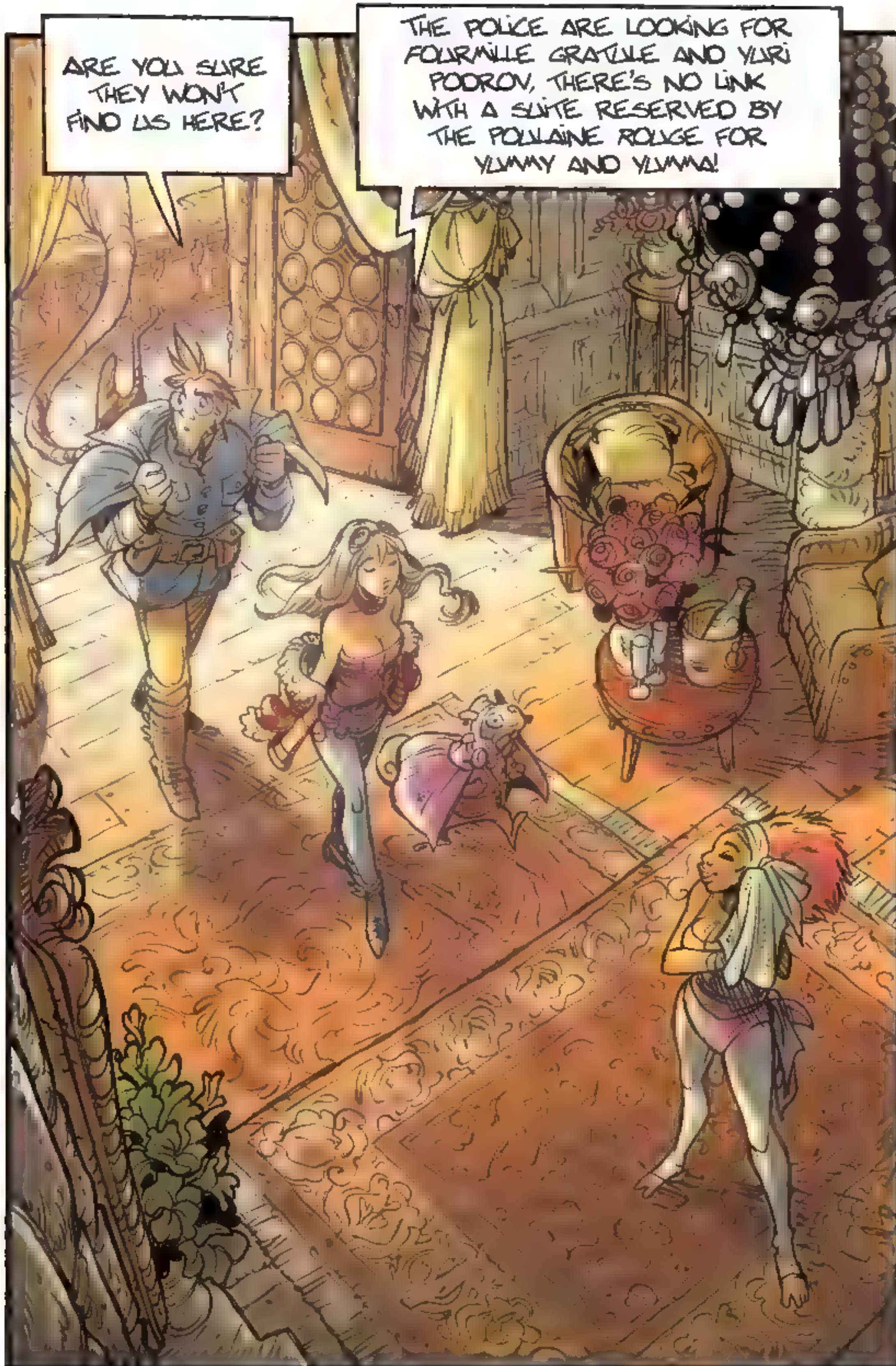
AH, IT'S YOU AGAIN, OF COURSE...

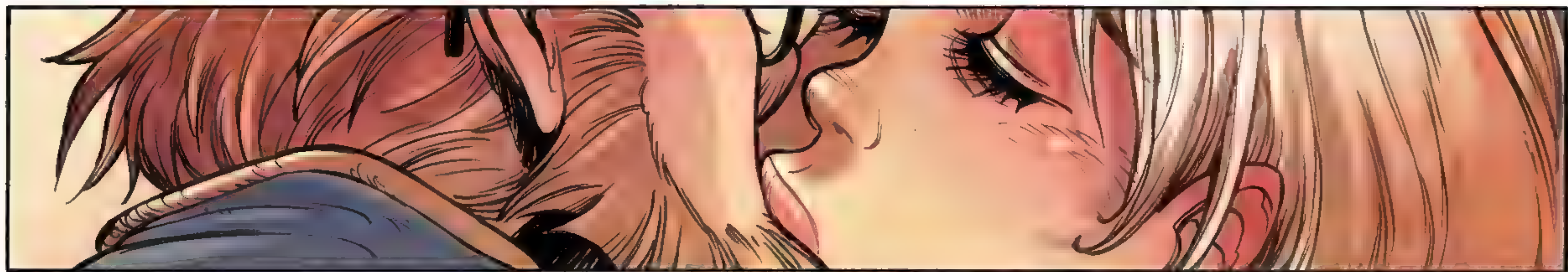
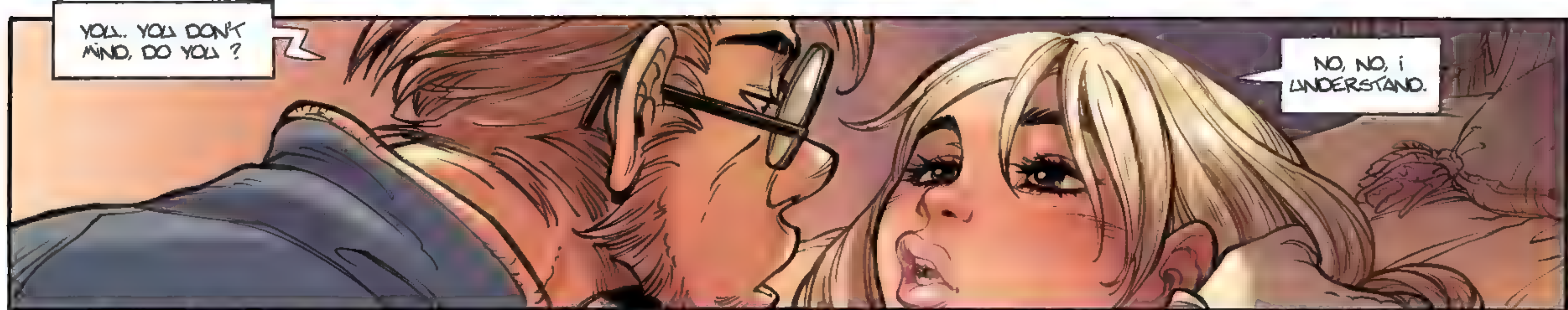
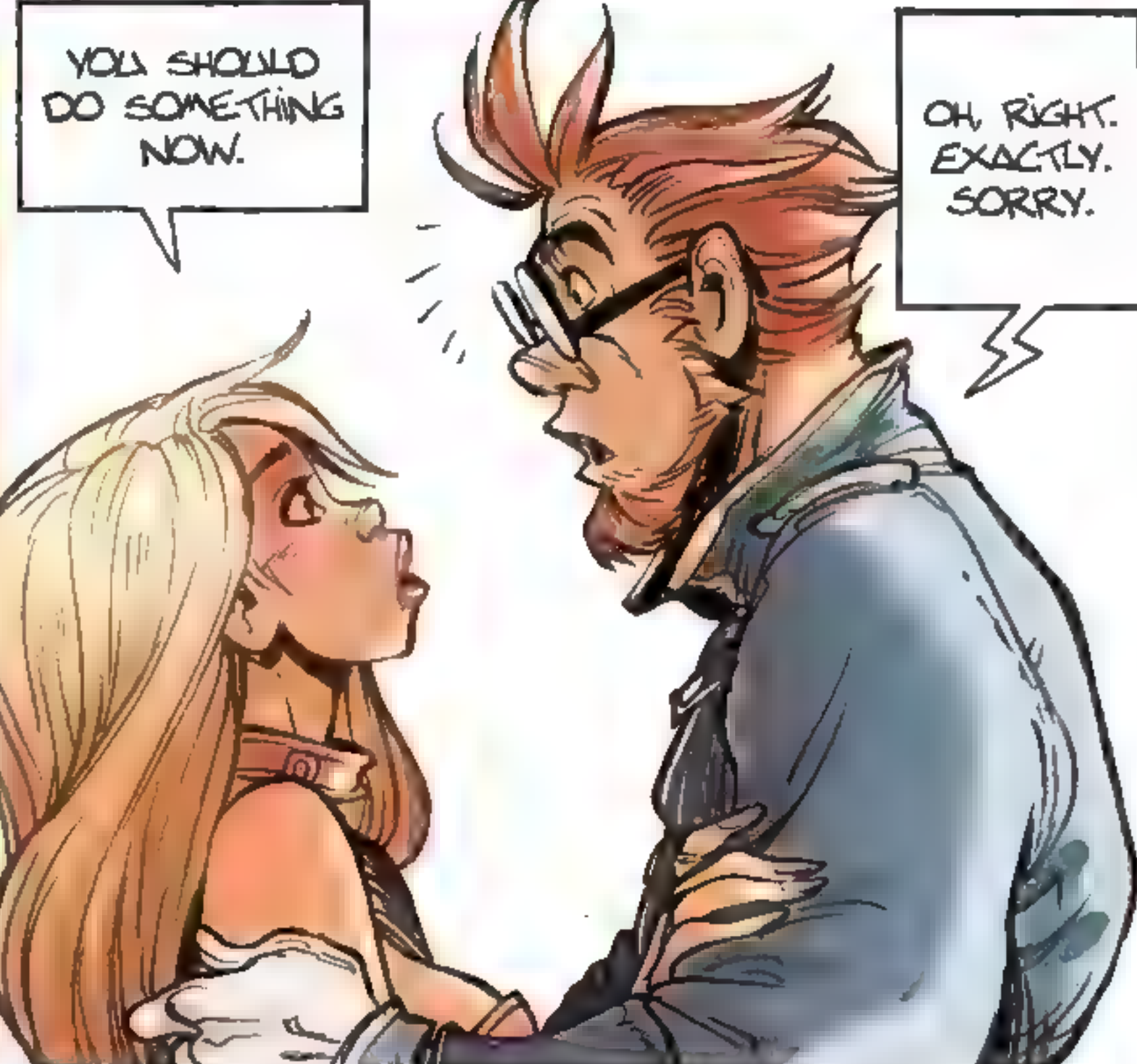
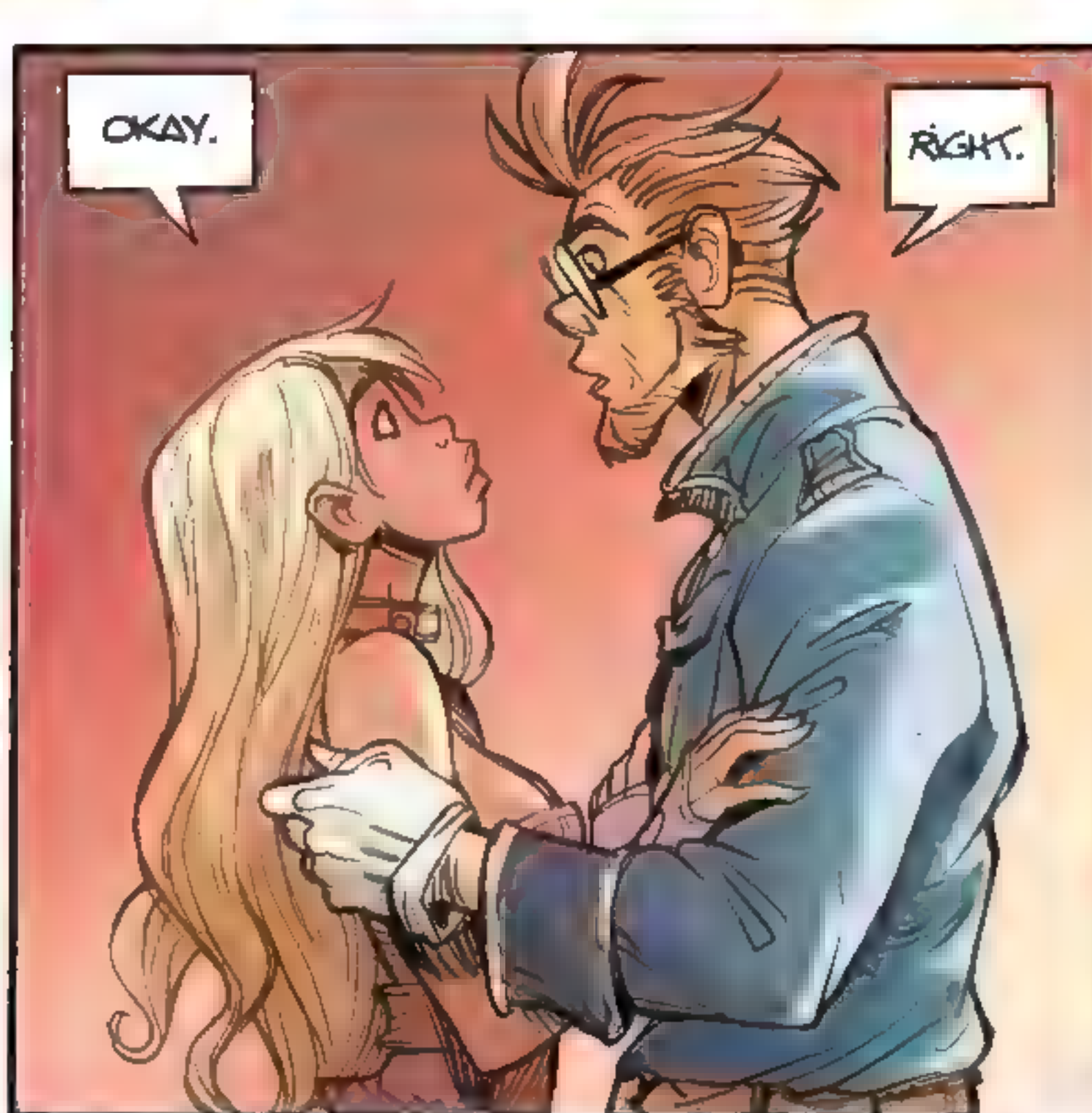
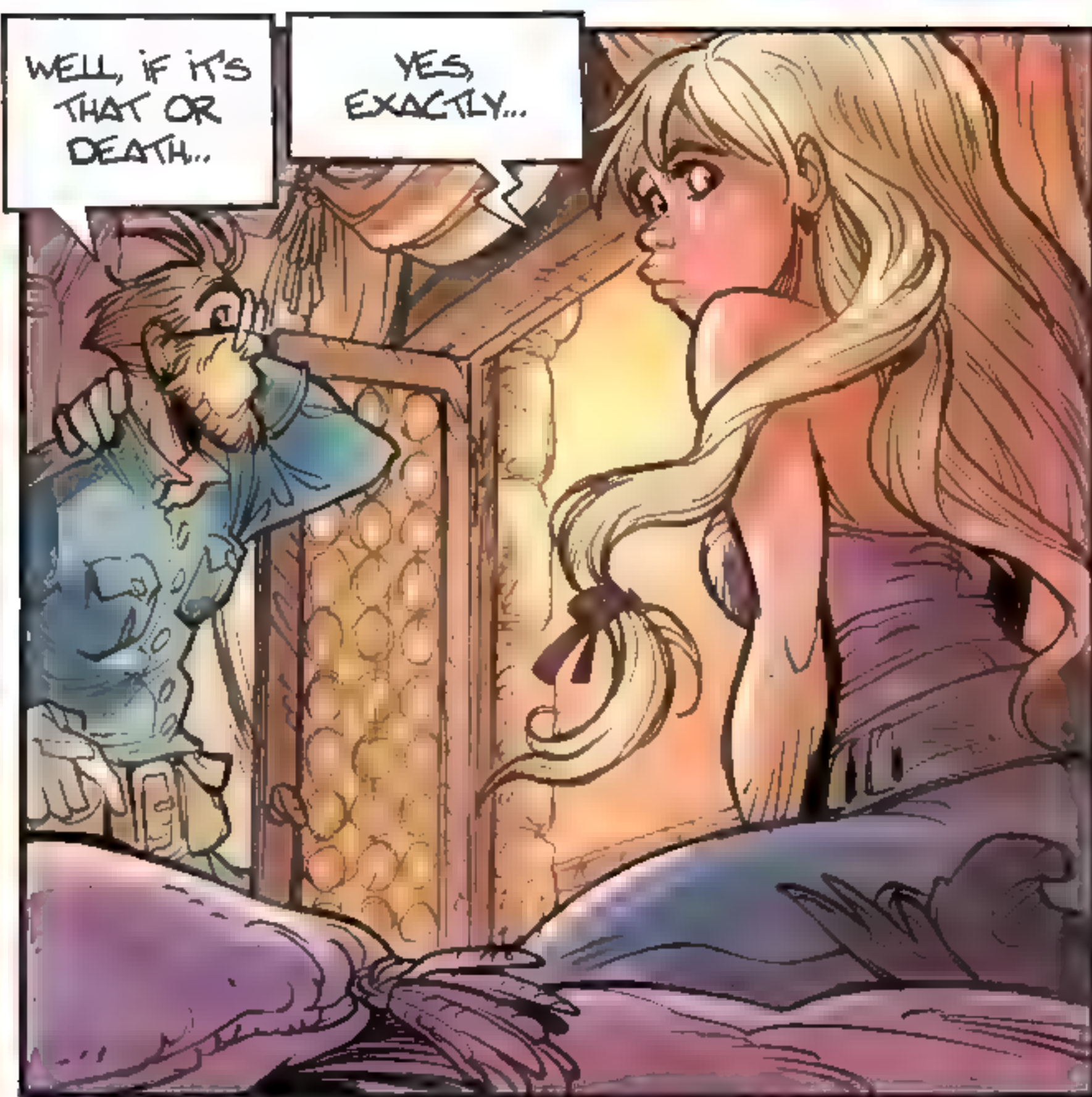
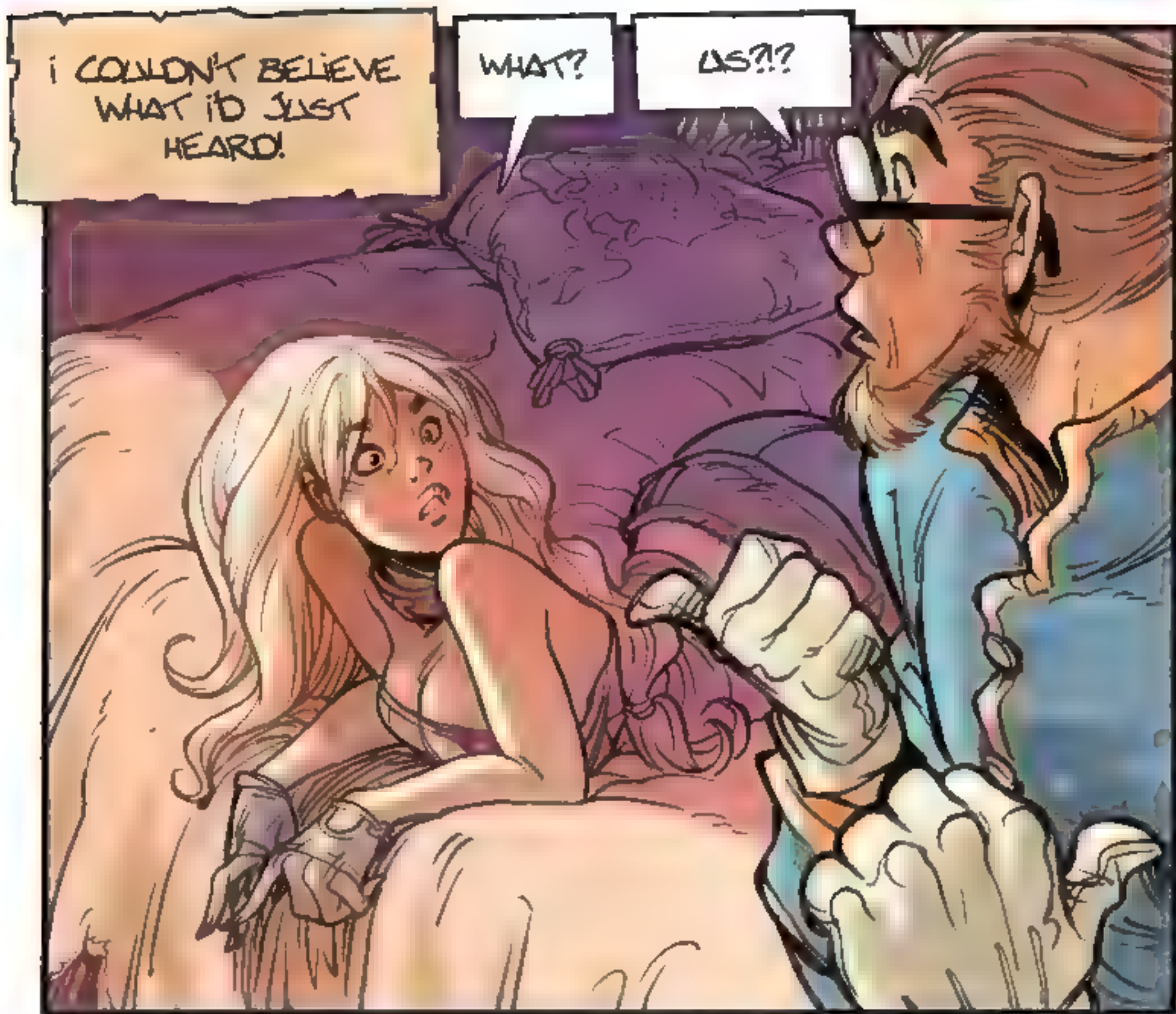


IT'S THERE!

HELLO!









STOP LAUGHING AND
GET OUT OF HERE!



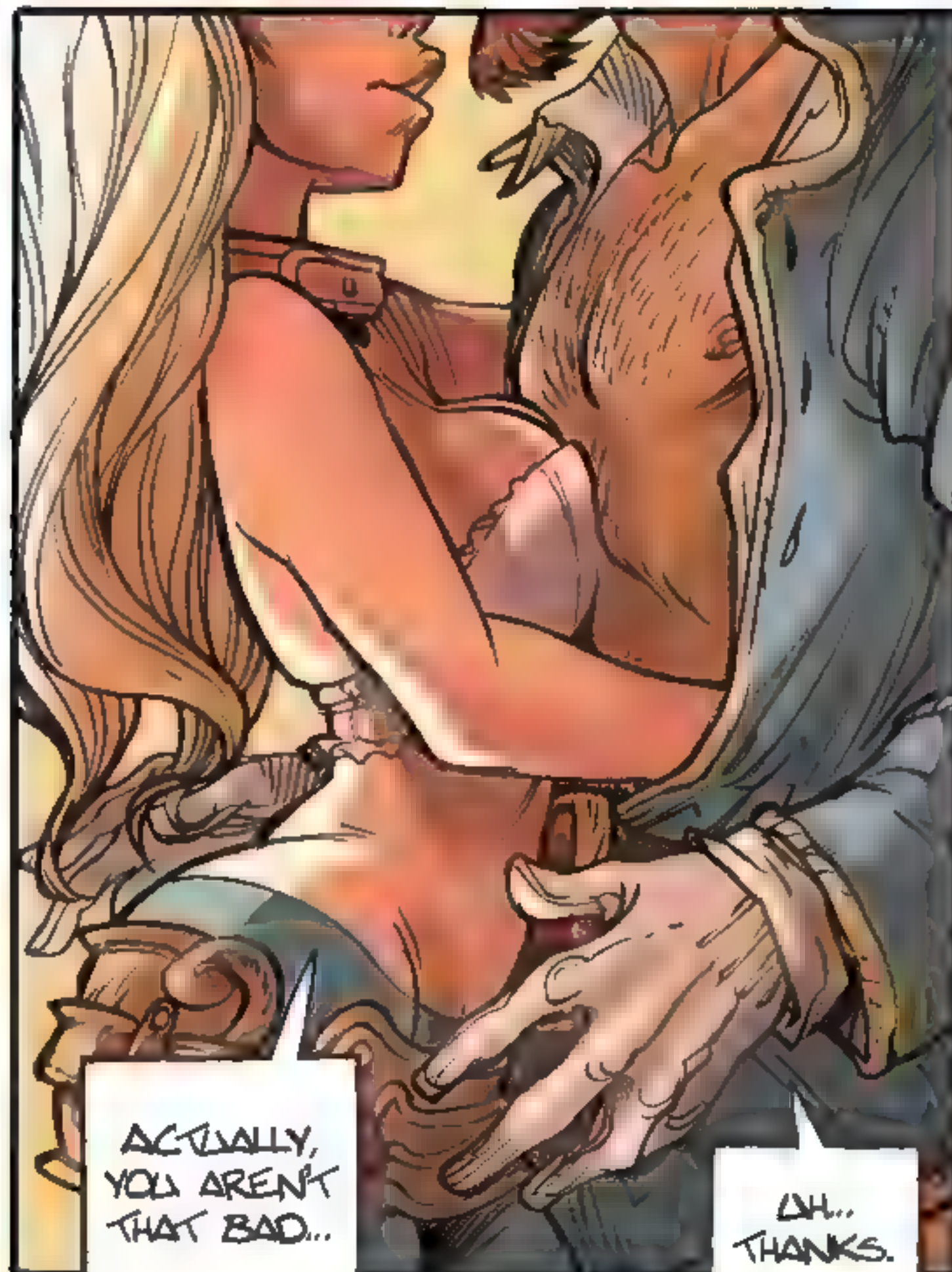
I WASN'T! YOU'RE
JUST CUTE,
THAT'S ALL

PFF! IF YOU THINK
I'M INTERESTED
IN HUMAN
COPIULATION..



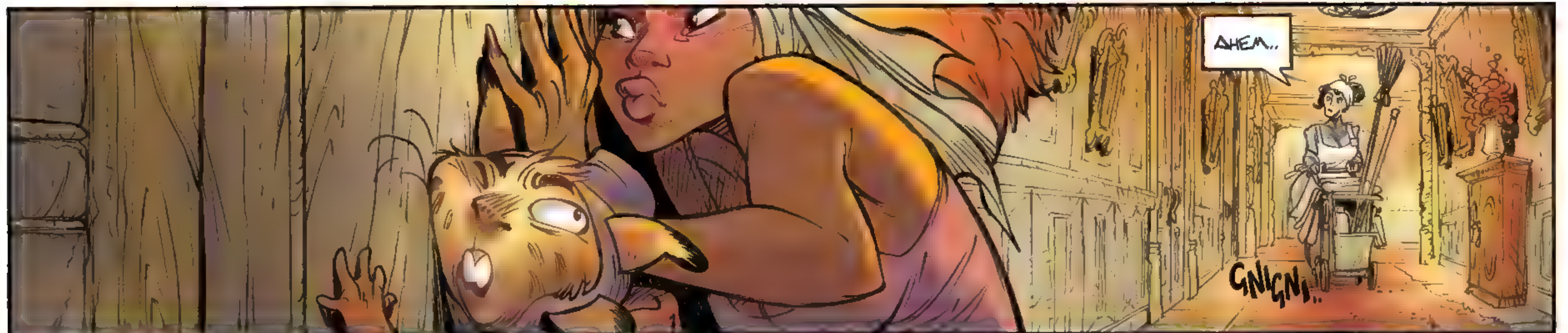
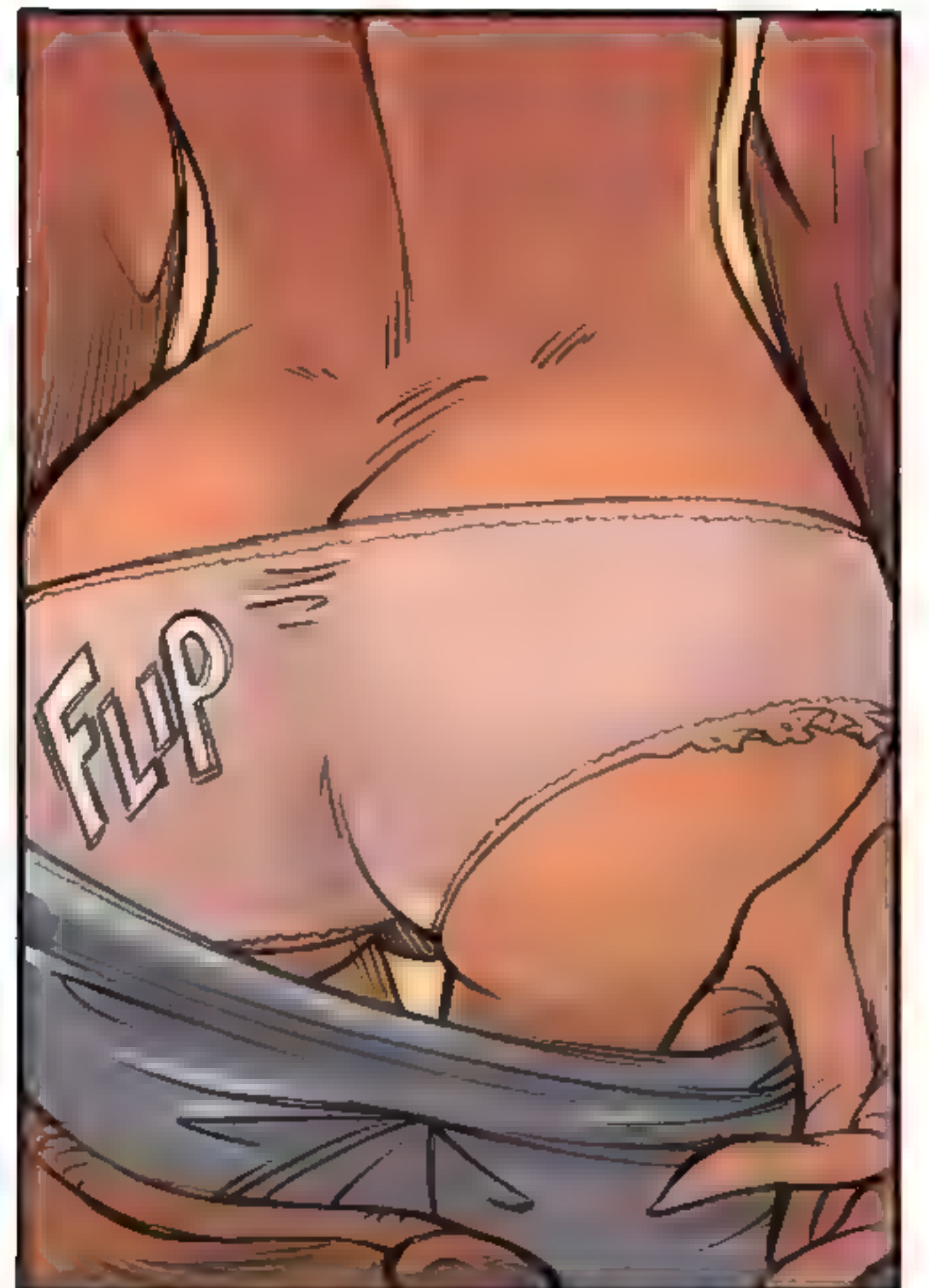
I'M SORRY. IT WAS
JUST EMBARRASSING
KNOWING THEY'RE
HERE..

I UNDERSTAND,
I FEEL THE
SAME WAY!



ACTUALLY,
YOU AREN'T
THAT BAD..

OH..
THANKS.



AHEM..

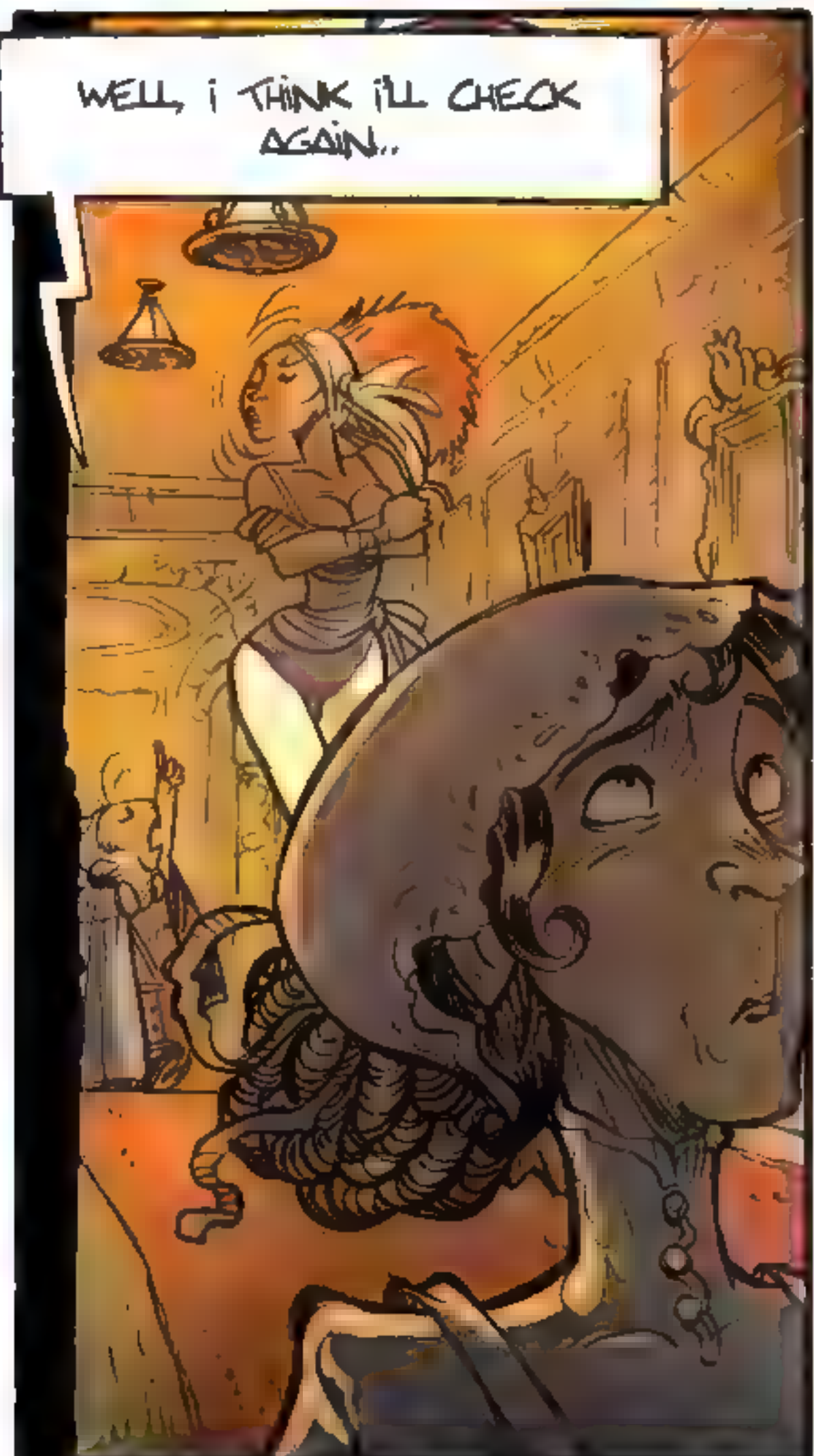
GNIGNI..



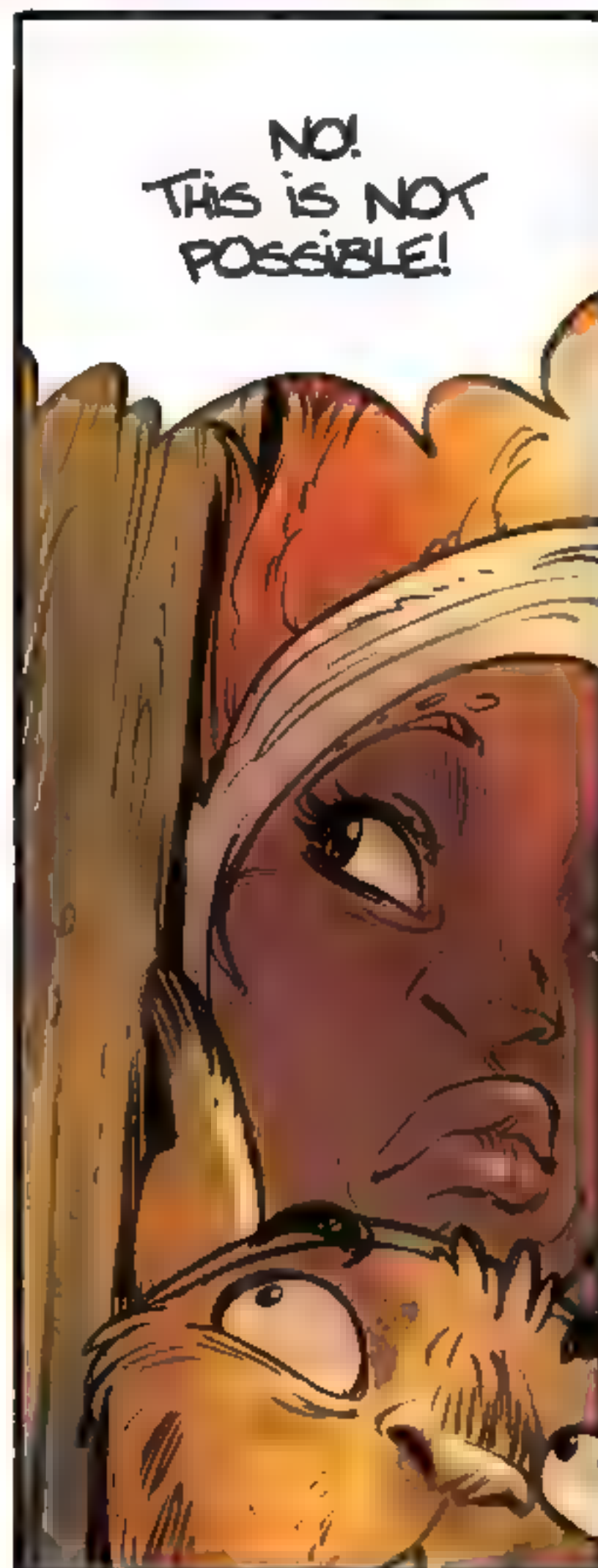
YES, HUM, THIS IS GOOD
WOOD, ISN'T IT? SOLID
AND STUFF?

SURE IS! YOU CAN'T
HEAR THE TERMITES
GNAWING..

GNIGNIGNI



WELL, I THINK I'LL CHECK
AGAIN..



NO!
THIS IS NOT
POSSIBLE!



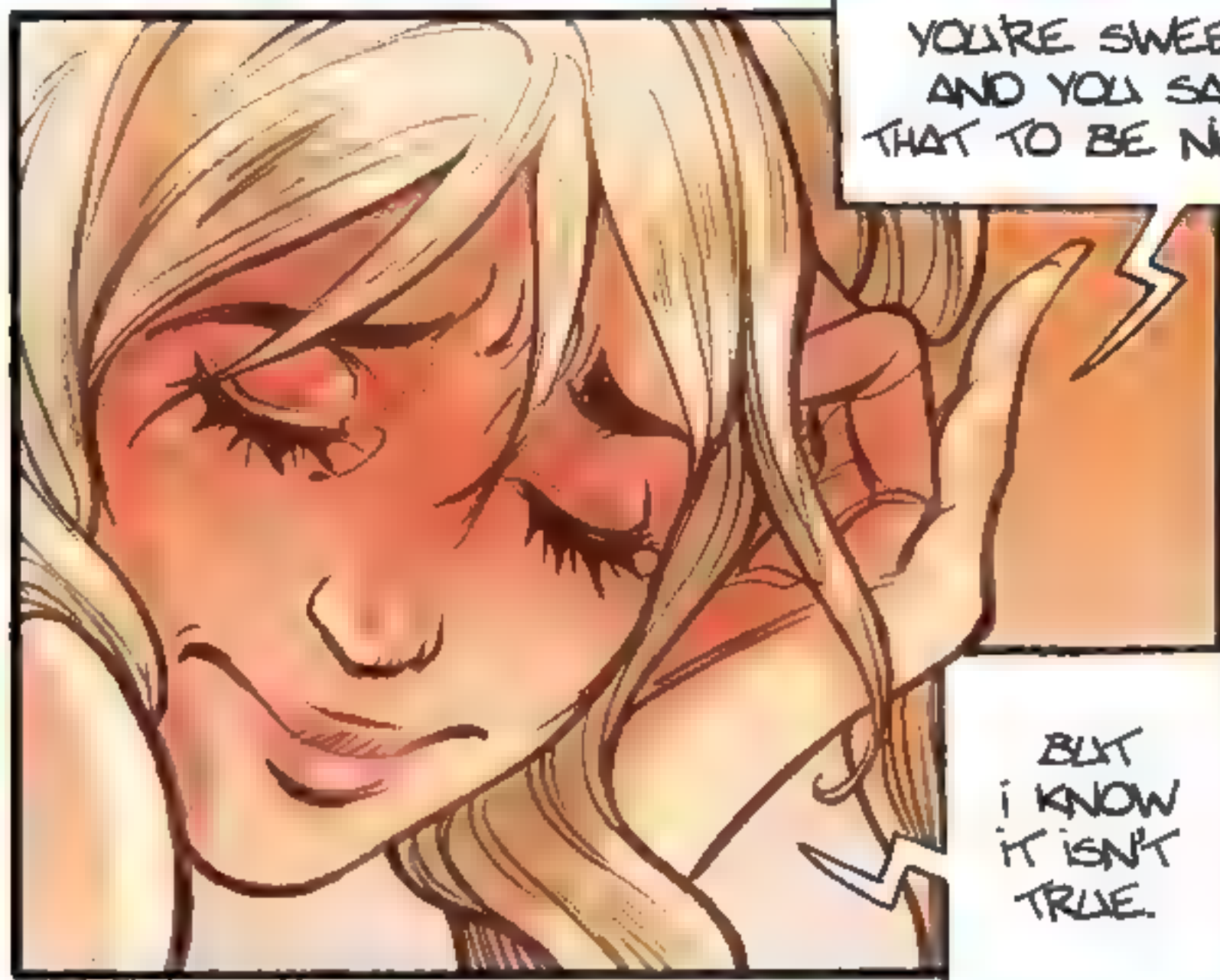
WHAT???



I'M SORRY, I CAN'T MAKE LOVE TO SOMEONE WHO'S ACTING OUT OF DUTY RATHER THAN DESIRE.

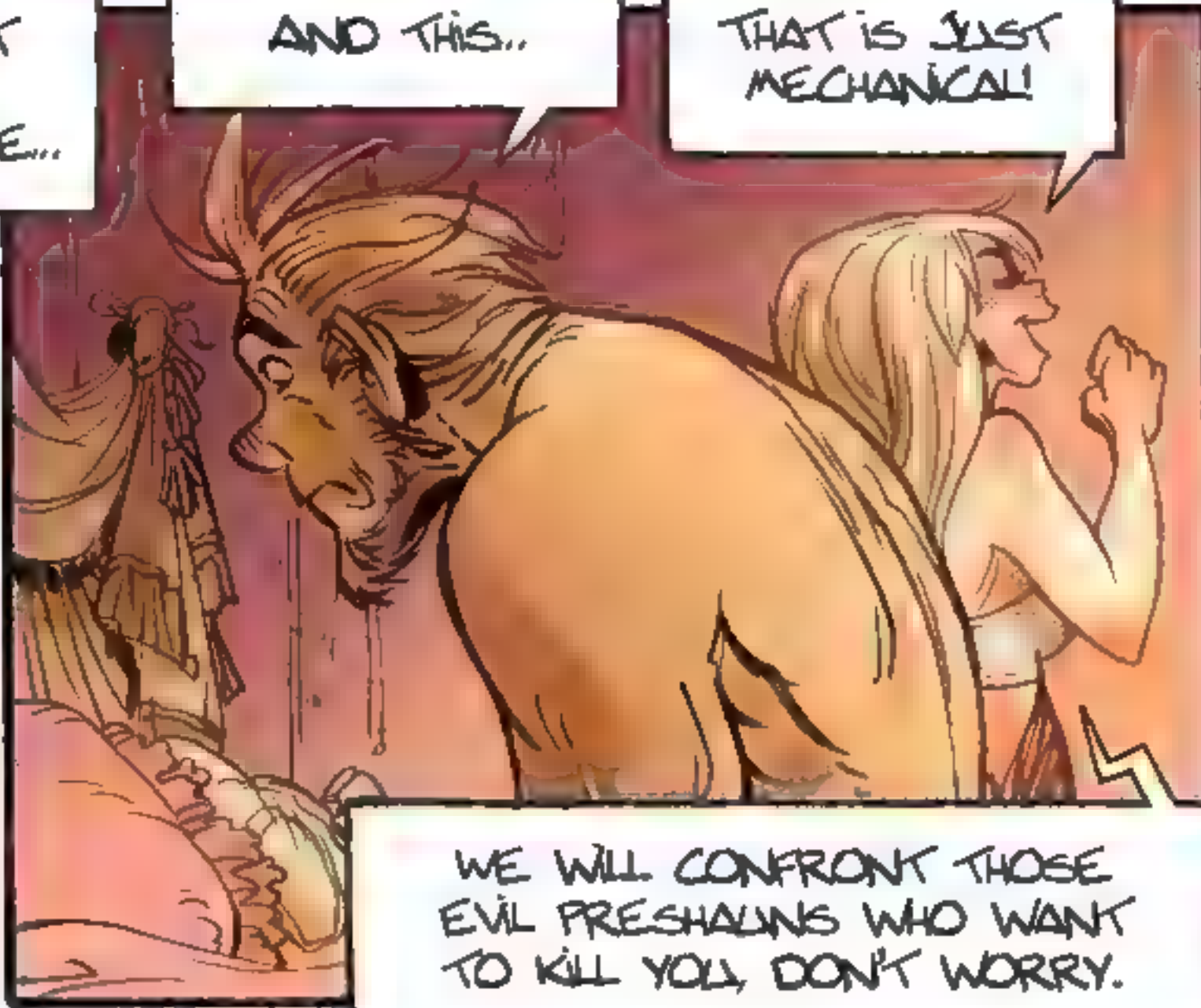
BUT...

I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF, HONEST! I REALLY REALLY WANT YOU!



YOU'RE SWEET AND YOU SAY THAT TO BE NICE...

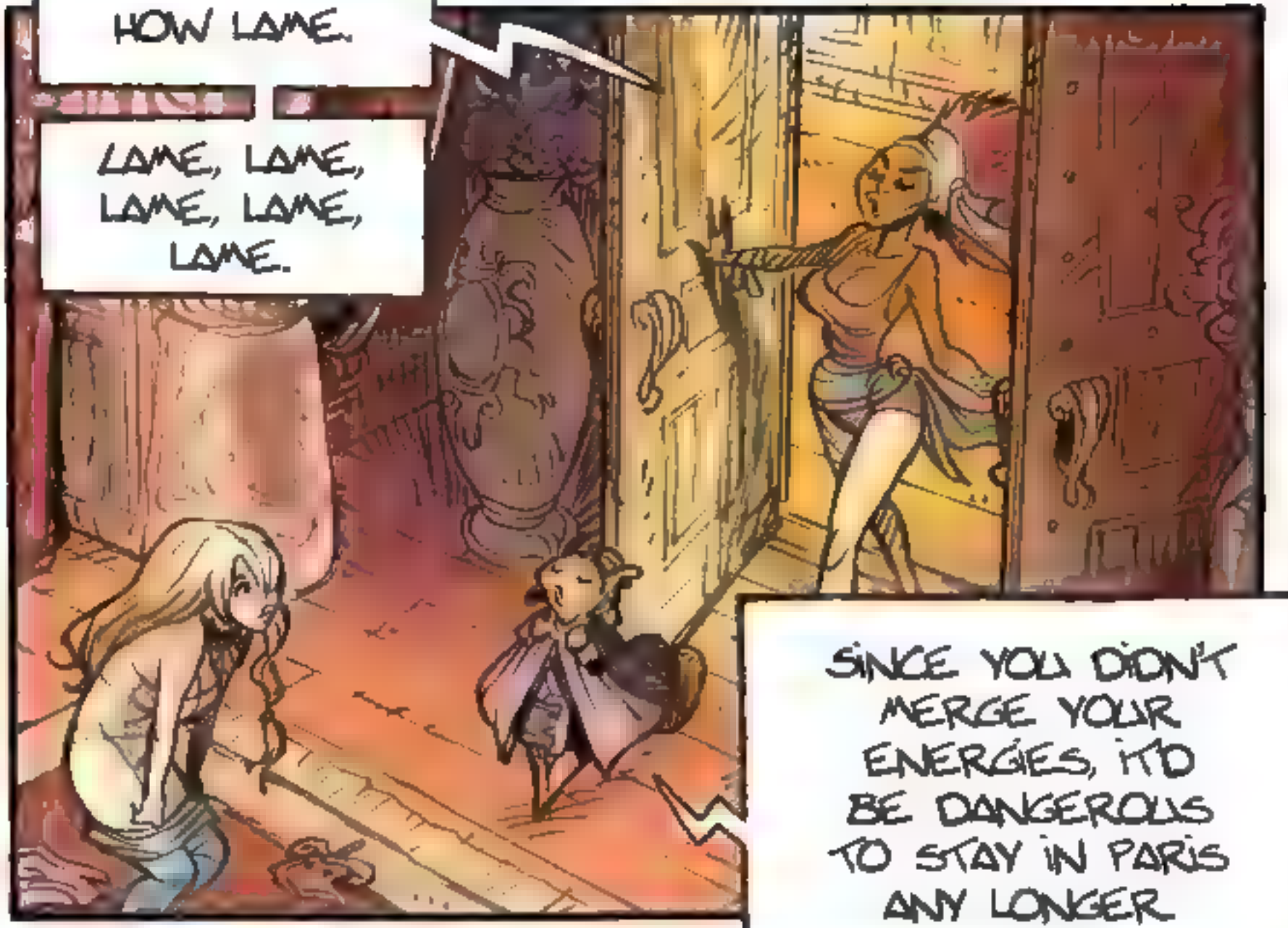
BUT I KNOW IT ISN'T TRUE.



AND THIS...

THAT IS JUST MECHANICAL!

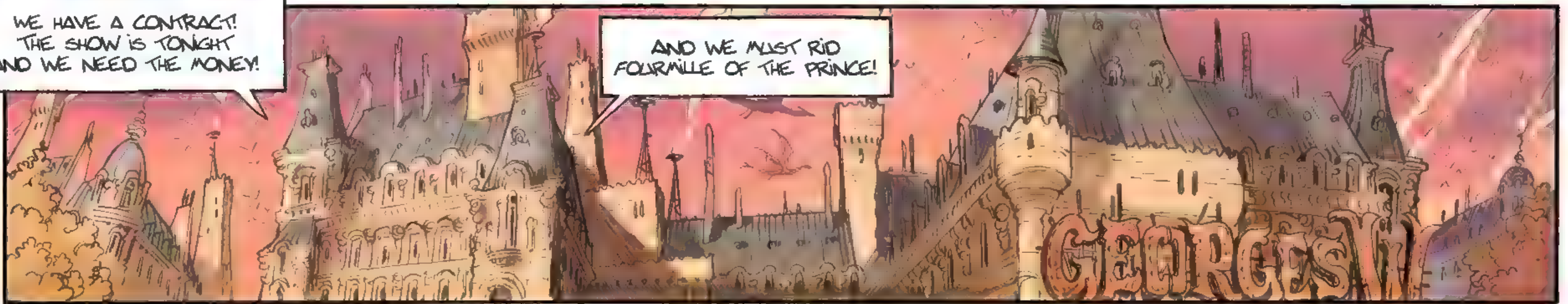
WE WILL CONFRONT THOSE EVIL FRESHAINS WHO WANT TO KILL YOU, DON'T WORRY.



HOW LAME.

LAME, LAME, LAME, LAME, LAME.

SINCE YOU DIDN'T MERGE YOUR ENERGIES, IT'D BE DANGEROUS TO STAY IN PARIS ANY LONGER.



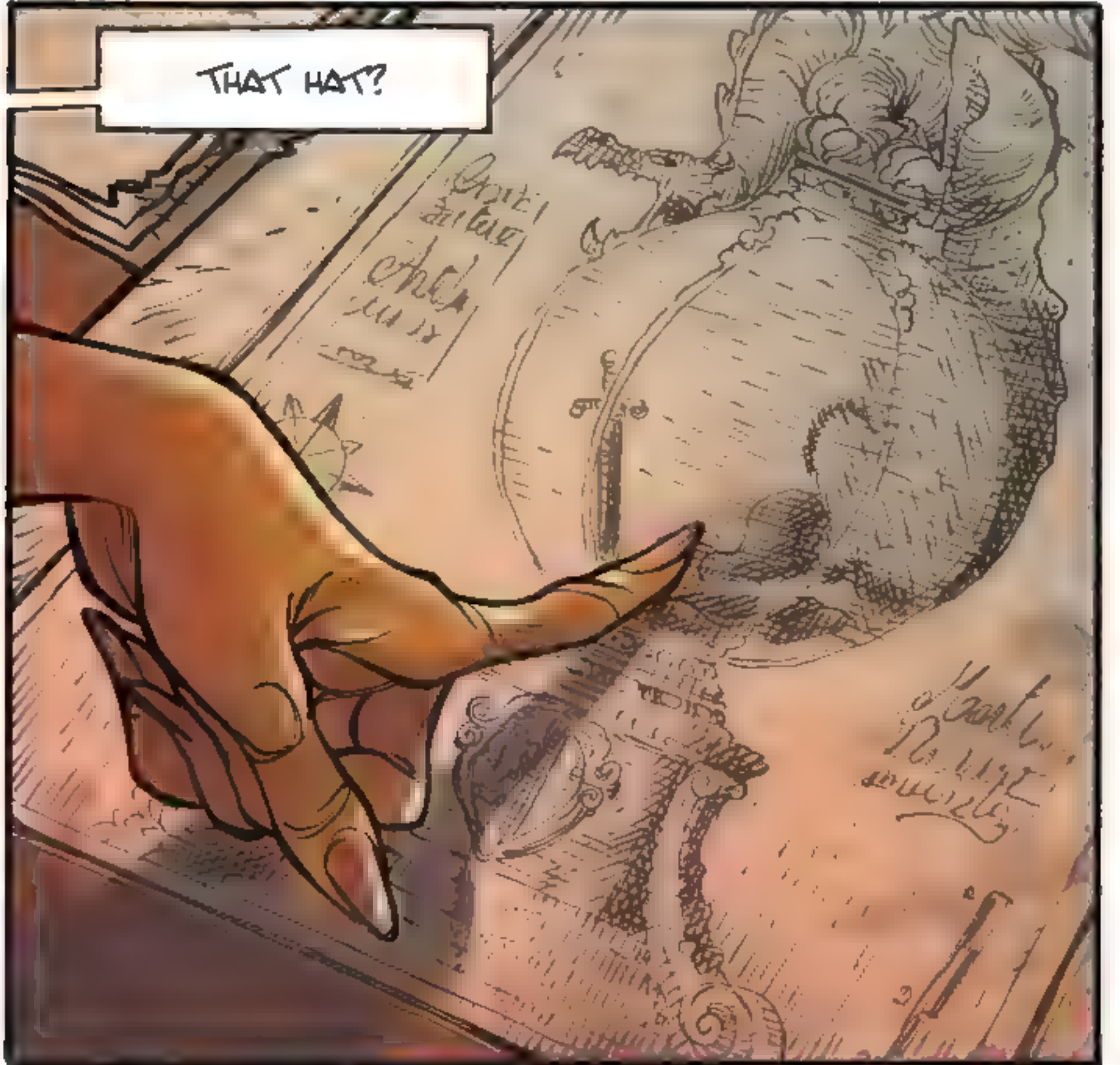
WE HAVE A CONTRACT! THE SHOW IS TONIGHT AND WE NEED THE MONEY!

AND WE MUST RID FOURVILLE OF THE PRINCE!



I COLLECTED EVERYTHING I COULD FIND ABOUT HIS DEATH.

ON OUR END, WE LEARNED THAT HE HAD HIDDEN AN IMPORTANT LETTER IN HIS HAT, AND WE HAVE TO GIVE IT TO HIS FATHER.



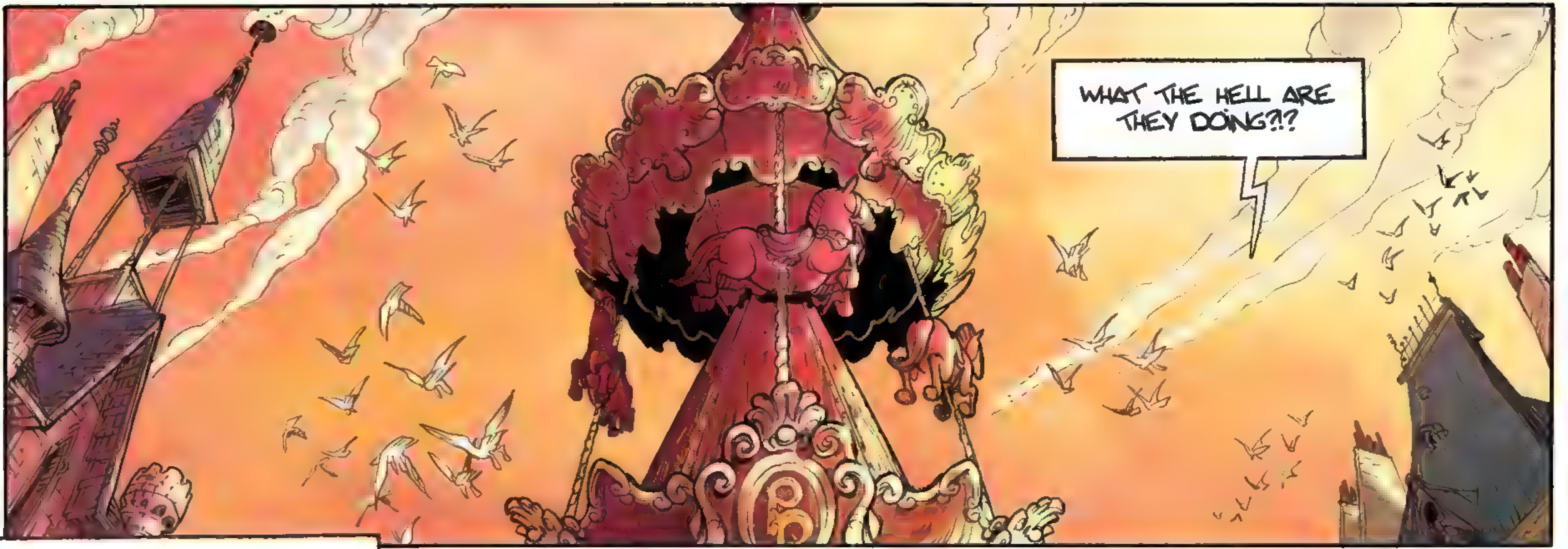
THAT HAT?



IT'S THE ONE HE WAS WEARING WHEN HE DIED.

THE LETTER MUST BE THERE.

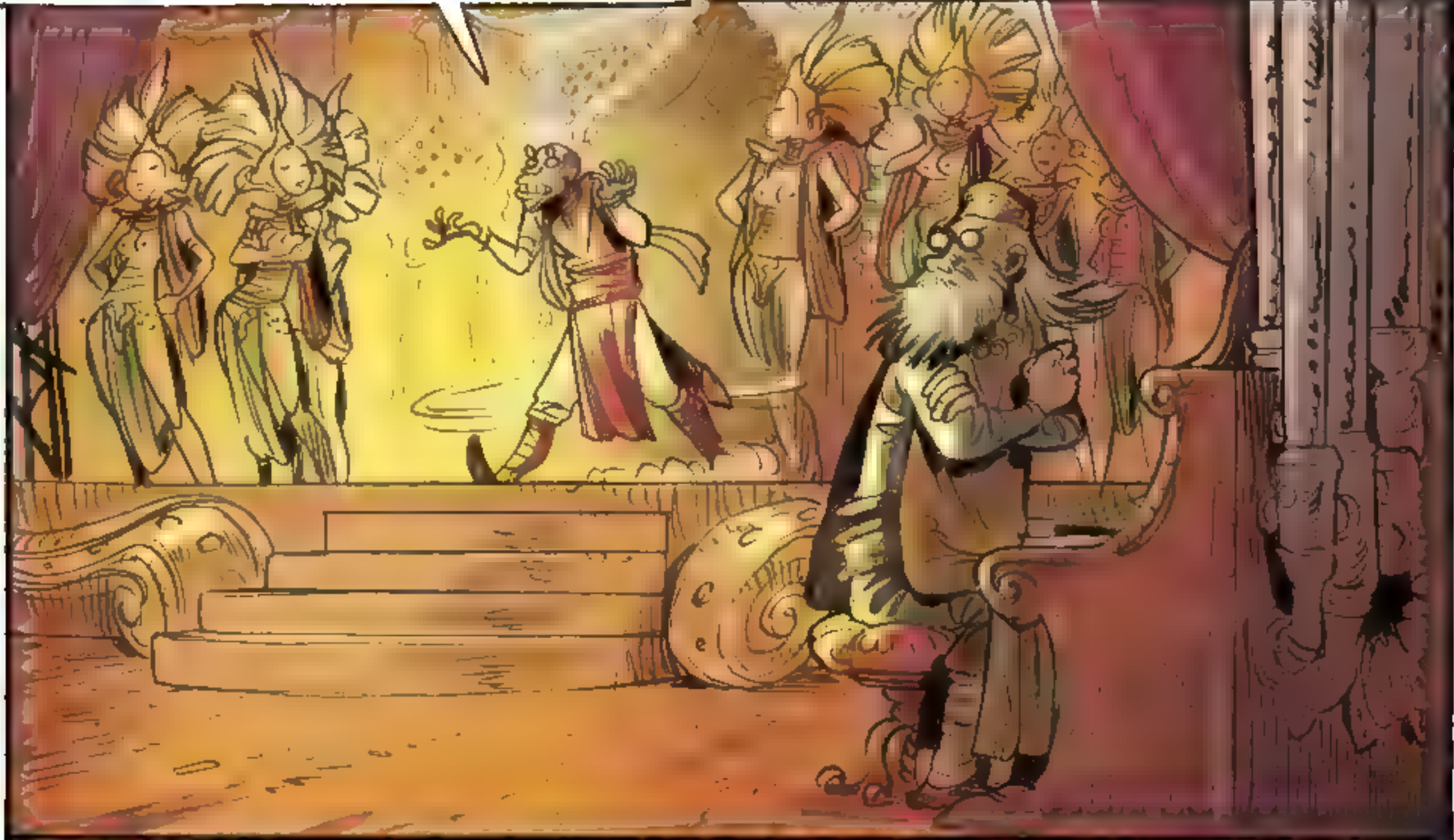
WELL, LET'S GO GET IT.



WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING??

WE START IN TWO HOURS AND THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TO REHEARSALS! IT'S A DISASTER!

IT'LL BE THE JOKE OF ALL PARIS! IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR!



IF YOU WANT, WE COULD REPLACE THEM?

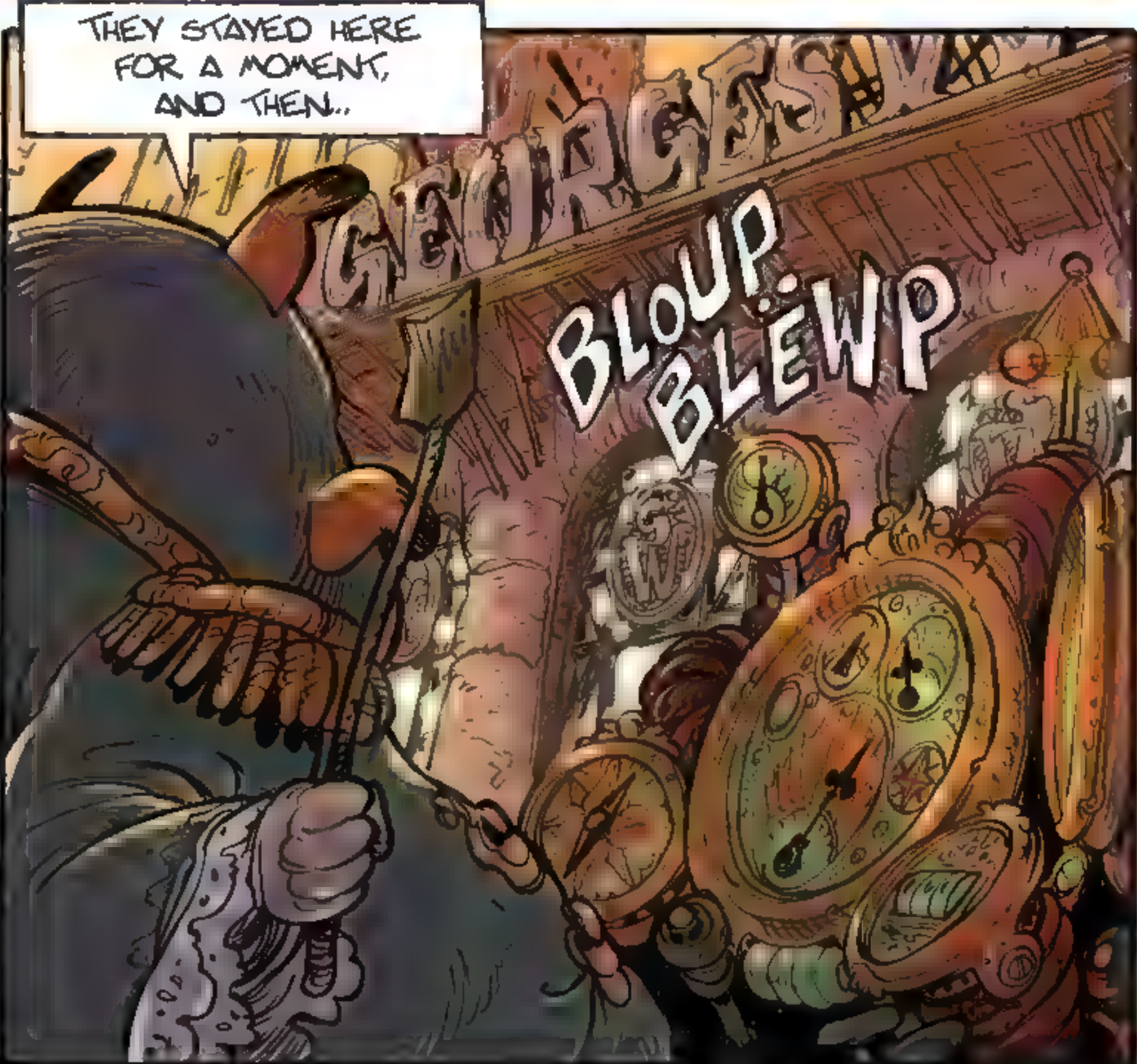
AND CALL US YUMMO AND YUMMY?



TRACKING CONFIRMED, THE PERTURBATION ISN'T FAR...

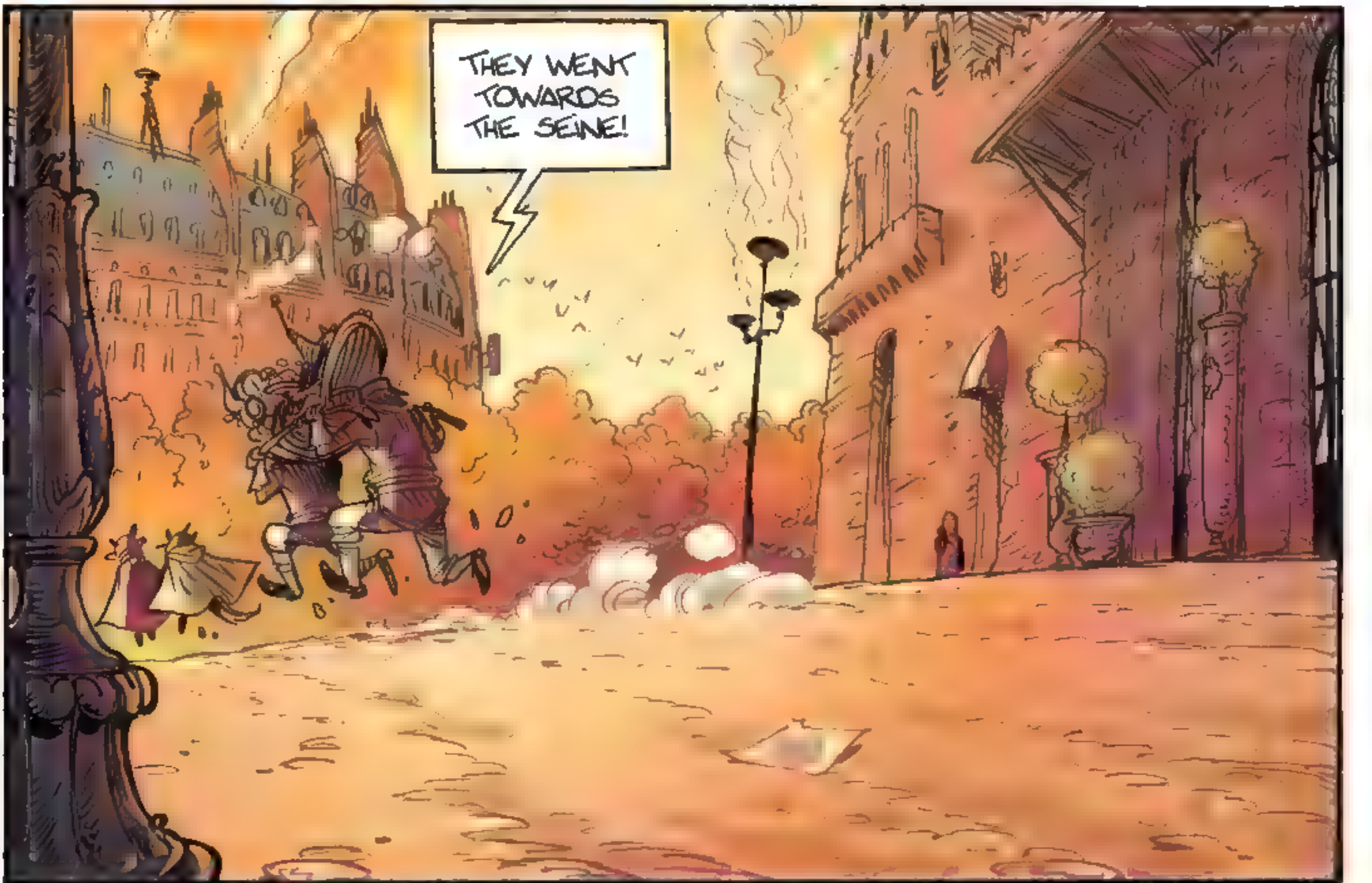
TURN ONTO GEORGES W AVENUE!

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

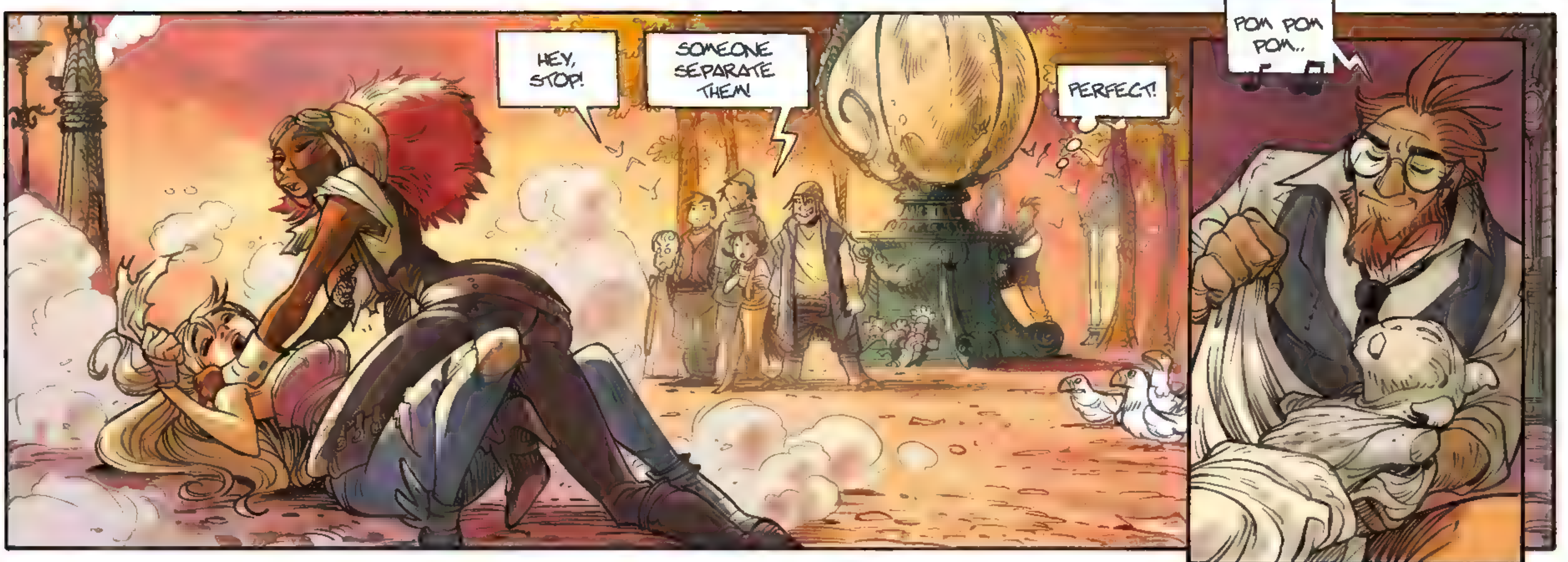
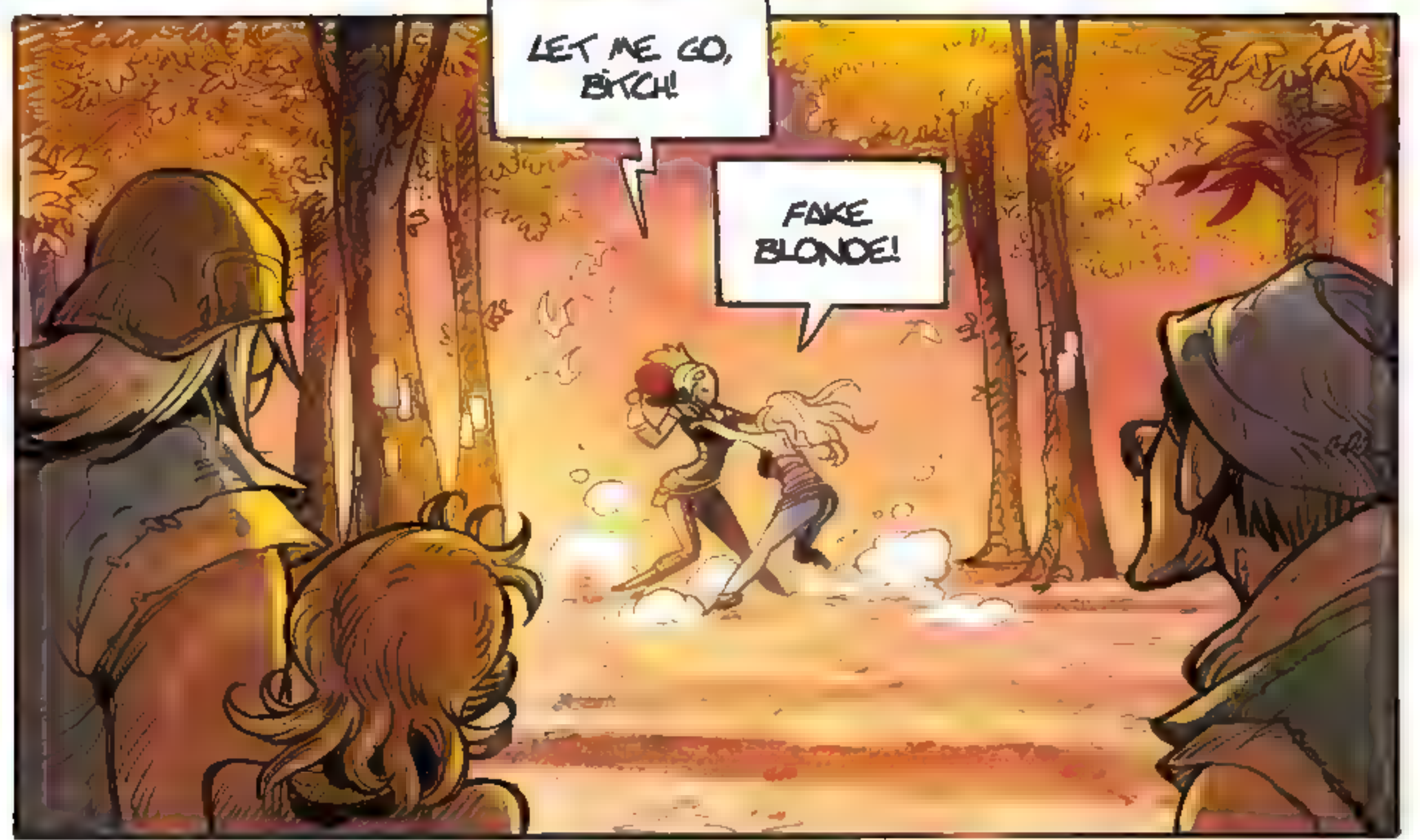
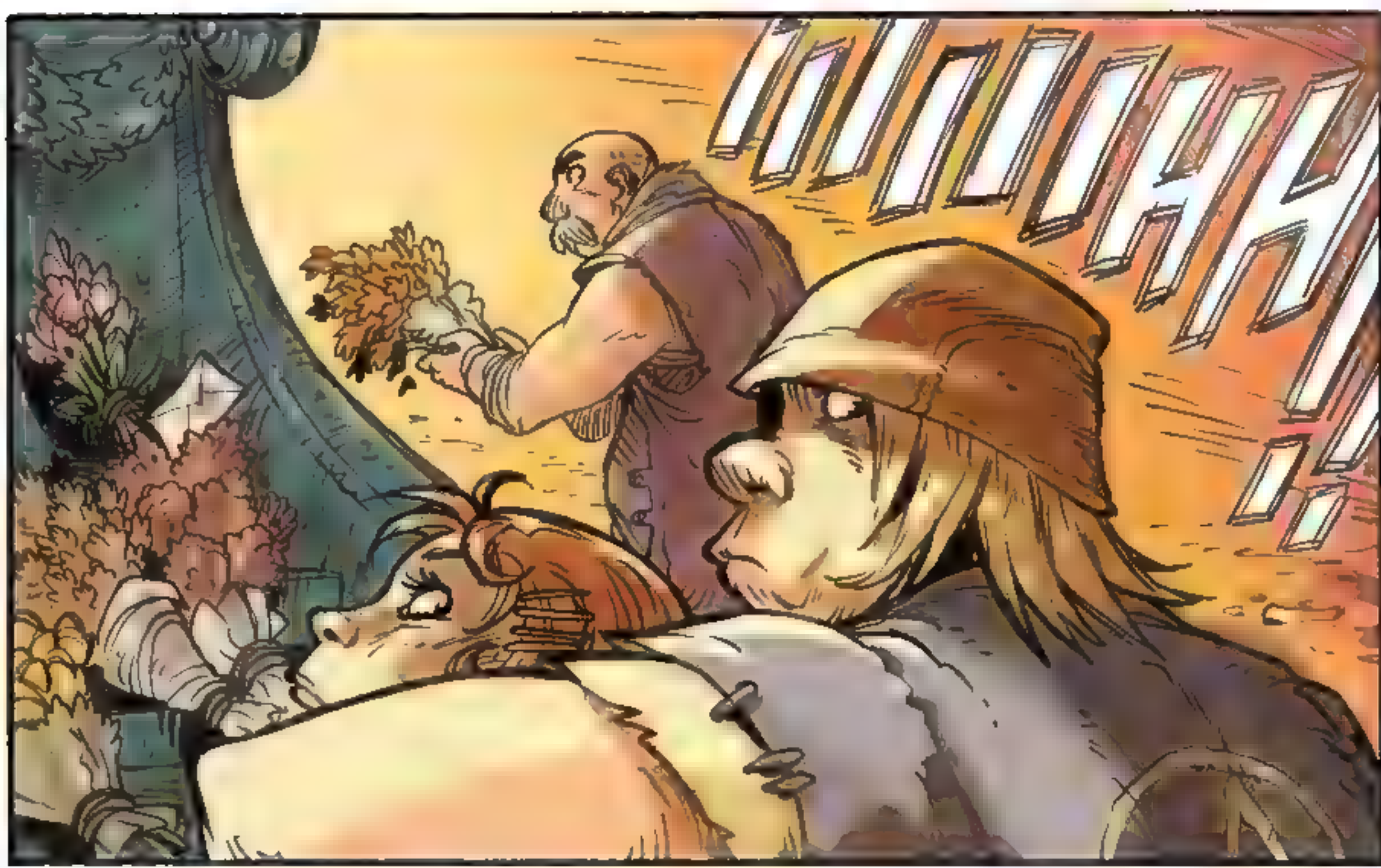


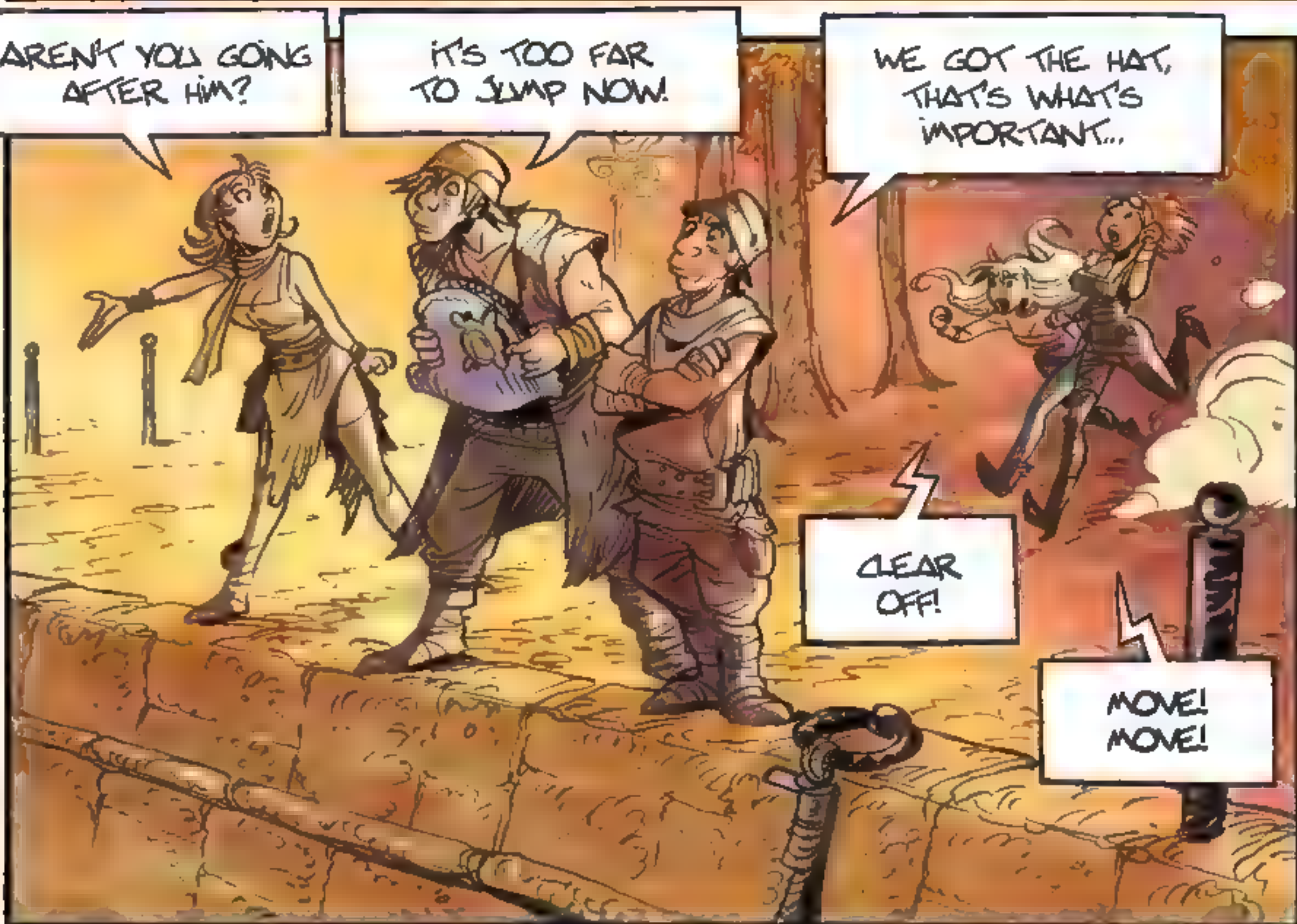
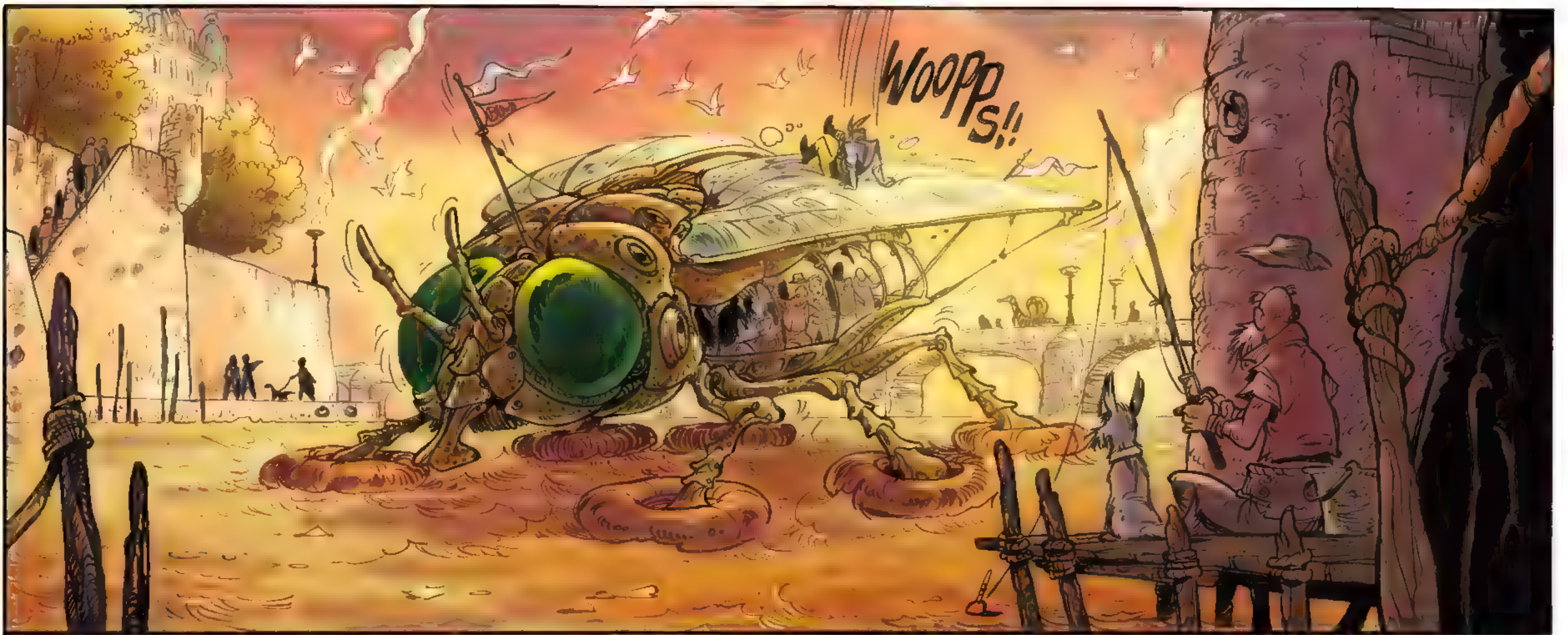
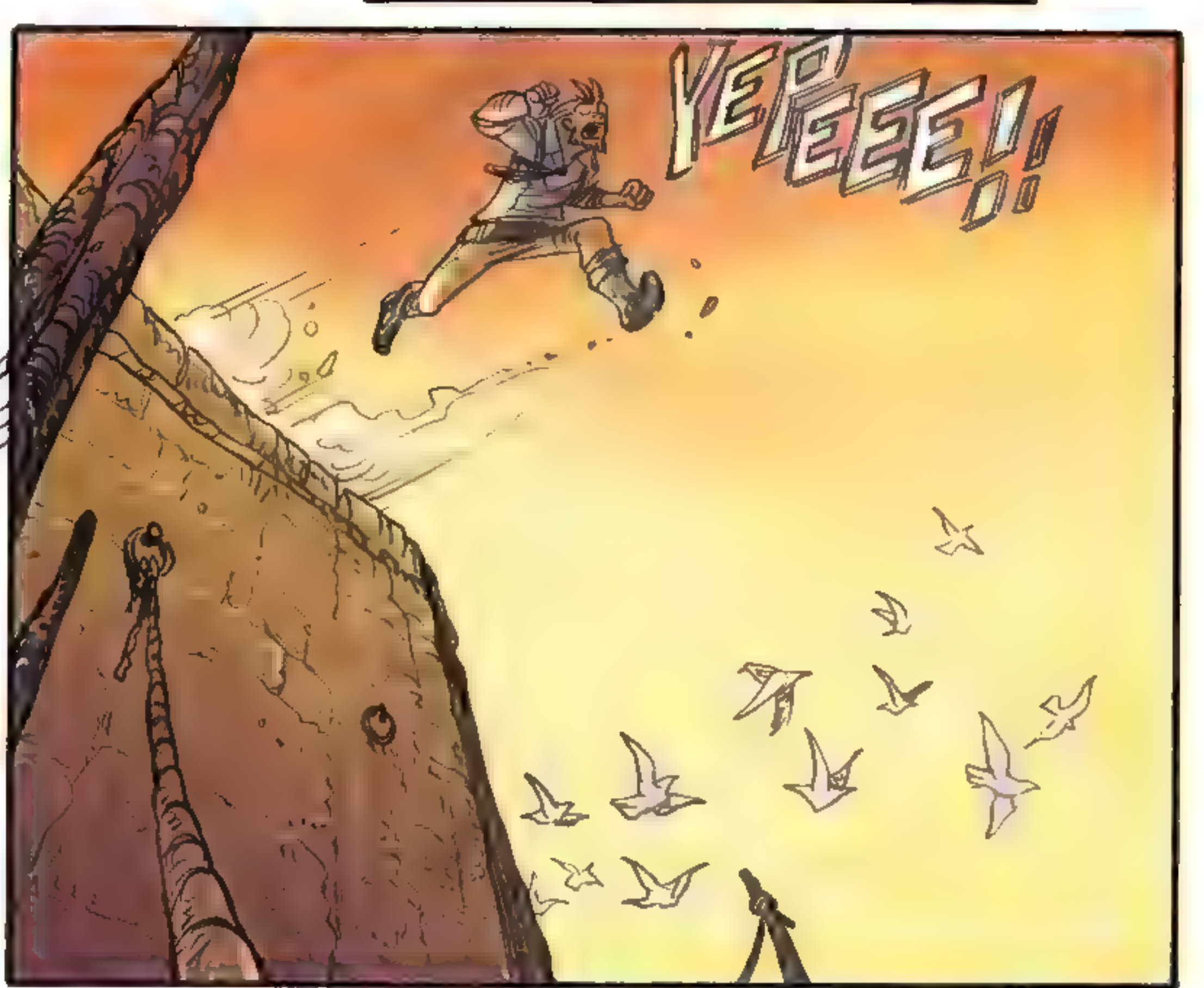
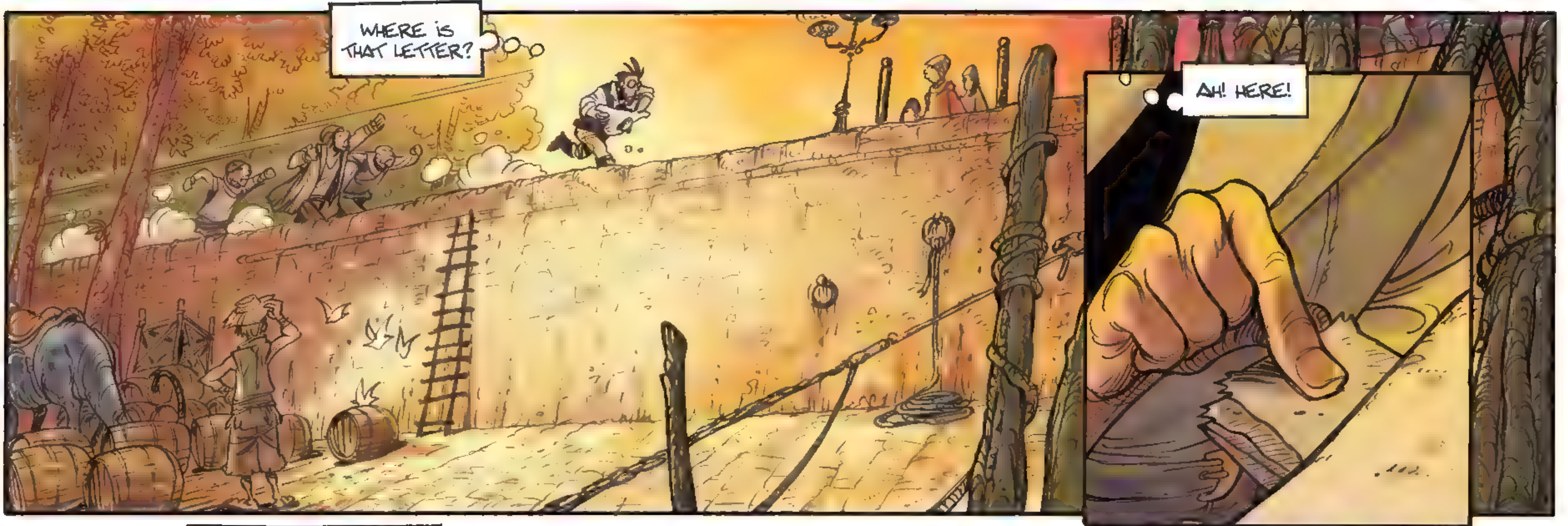
THEY STAYED HERE FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN...

BLOUP
BLEWP



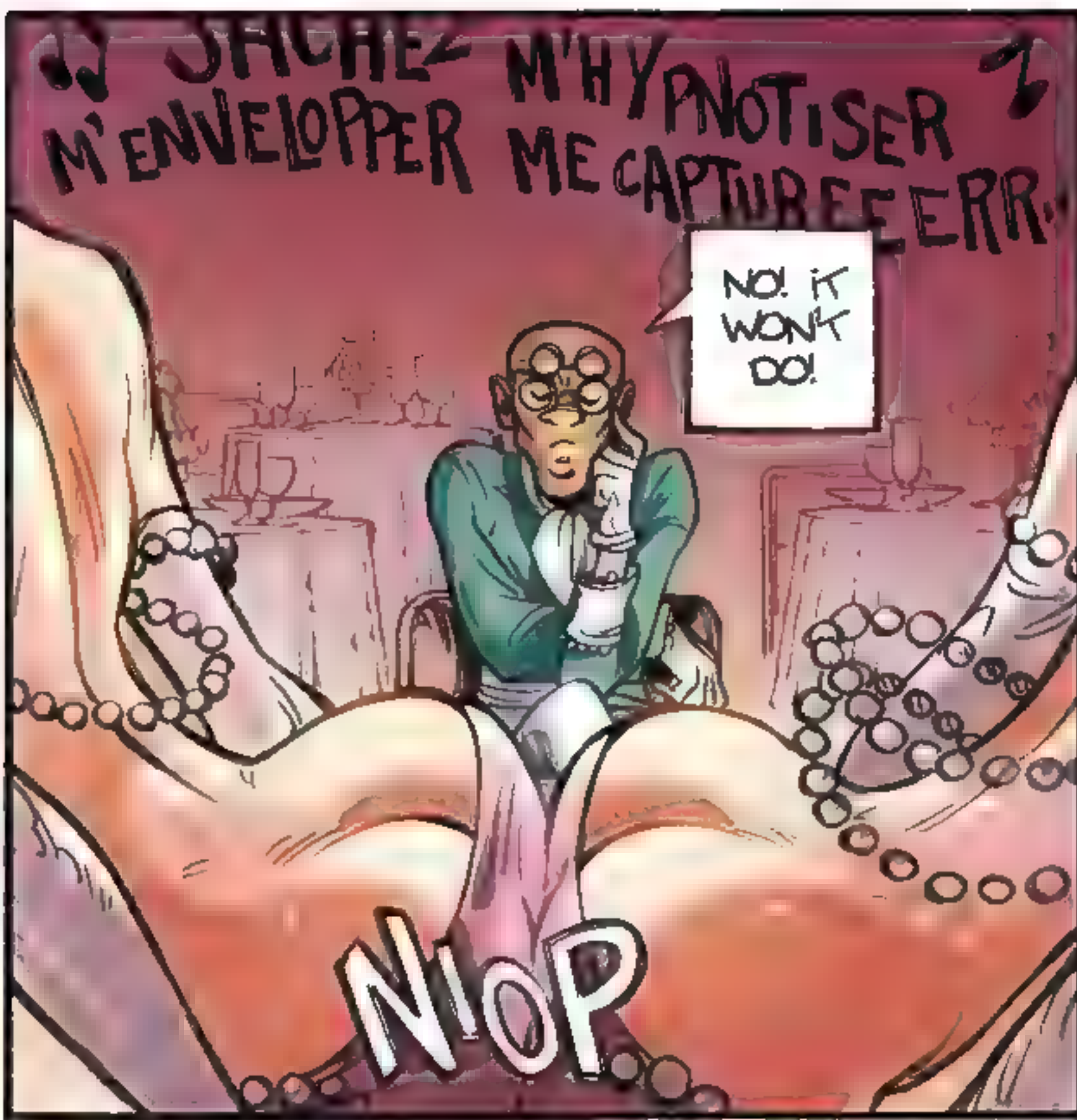
THEY WENT TOWARDS THE SEINE!







DÉSHABILLEZ-MOI, DESHABILLEZ-MOI
OUI, MAIS PAS TOUT DE SUITE
PAS TROP VITE...



SACHEZ M'HYPNOTISER
M'ENVELOPPER ME CAPTIVER...

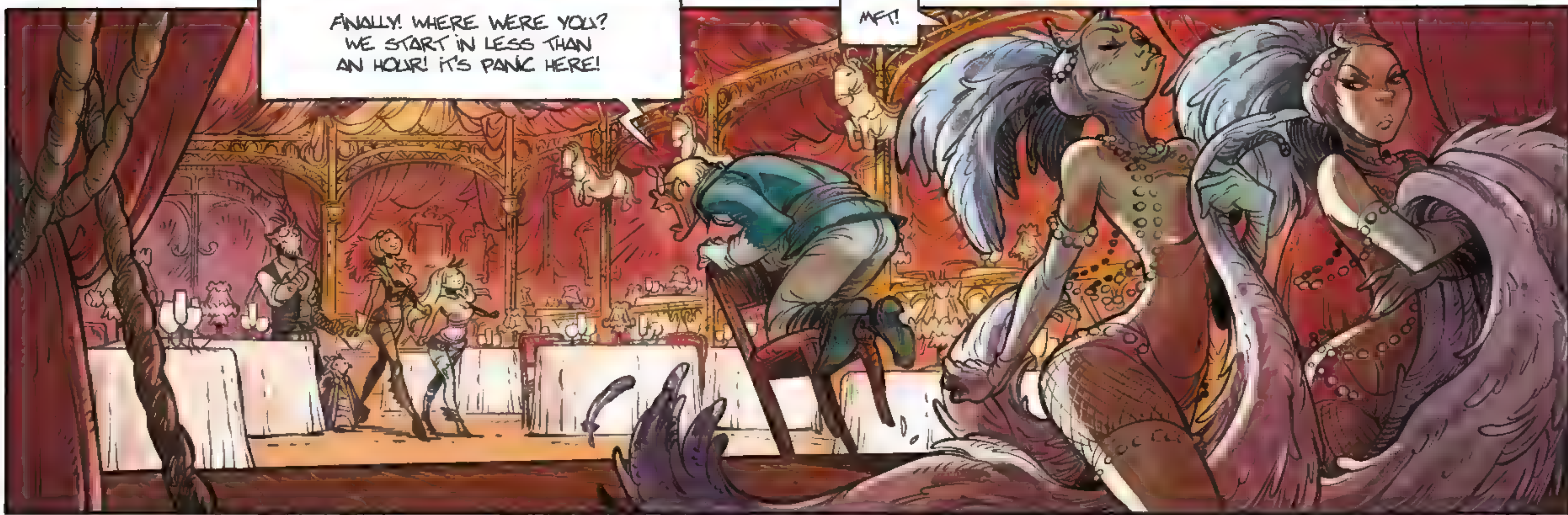
NO! IT WON'T DO!

NIOP



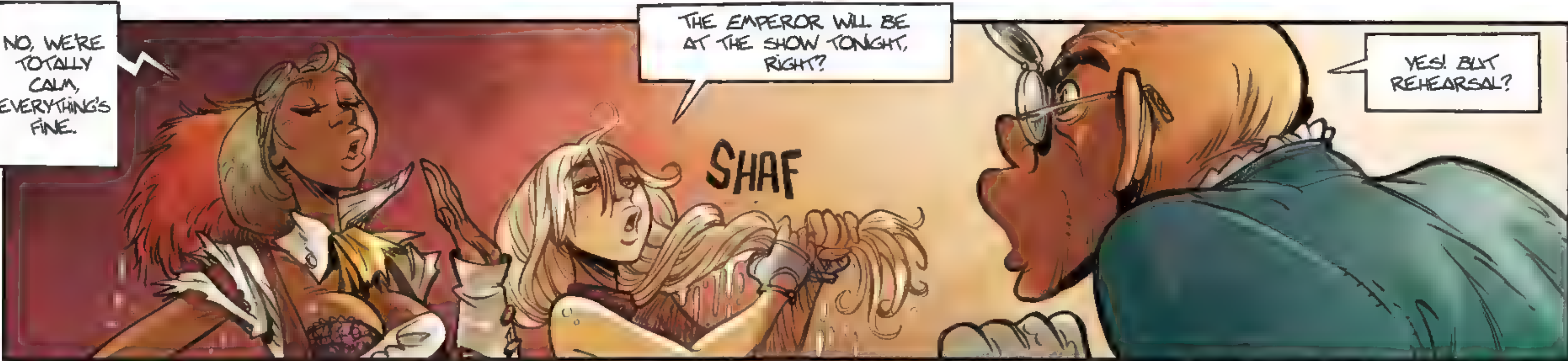
OBTAININGLY, SINCE
IT'S NOT US.

??



FINALLY! WHERE WERE YOU?
WE START IN LESS THAN
AN HOUR! IT'S PANIC HERE!

MFI!



NO, WE'RE
TOTALLY
CALM,
EVERYTHING'S
FINE.

THE EMPEROR WILL BE
AT THE SHOW TONIGHT,
RIGHT?

SHAF

YES! BUT
REHEARSAL?

MY TEACHER OF LITERATURE ALWAYS
TOLD ME NOT TO WRITE TWICE
THE SAME THING. IT ISN'T ELEGANT.

YOU, THE IMPRESARIO! IF
THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST
MISTAKE THIS EVENING,
YOU'LL PAY ME BACK
EVERY LAST CENT!
GOT IT?

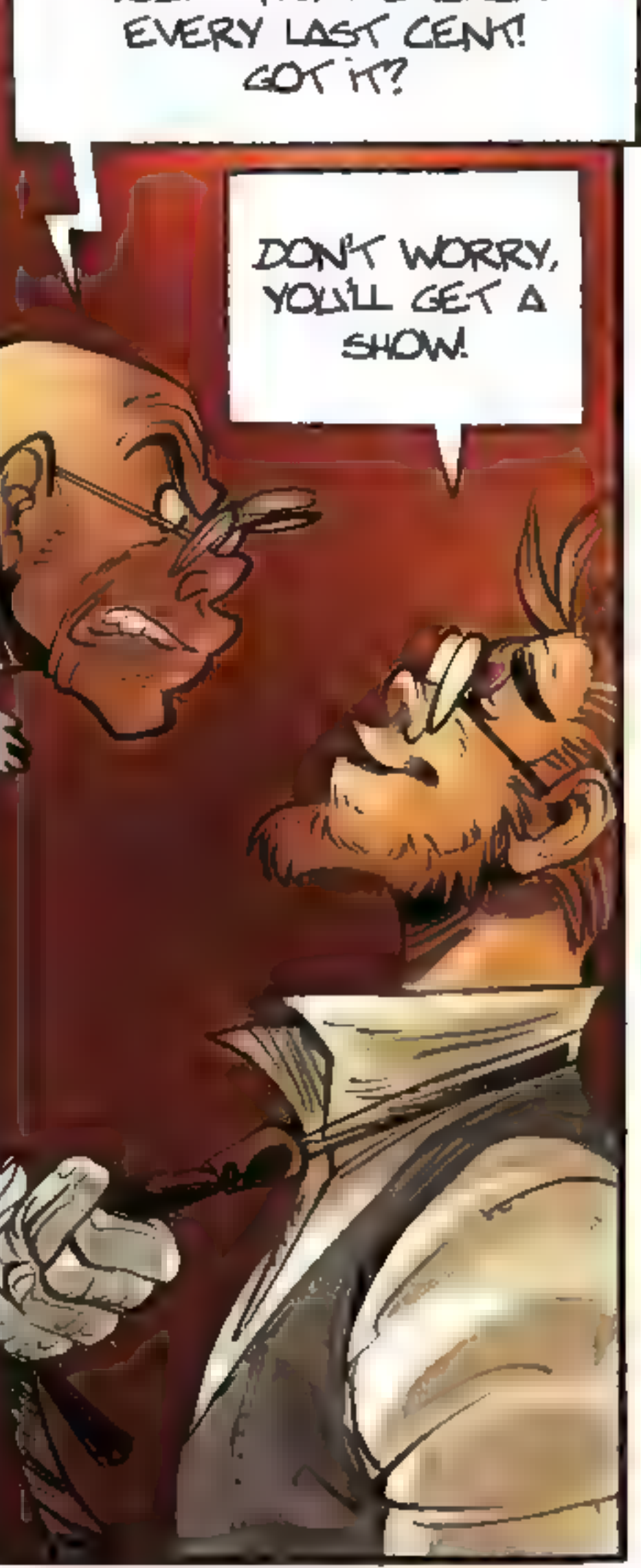
MISTER KLEAROFF,
THE FIRST GUESTS
ARE HERE!

GO HIDE BACKSTAGE,
YOU AREN'T
PROPERLY DRESSED!

I'M EXPECTING FRESHWATER
OFFICIALS. LET ME KNOW
WHEN YOU SEE THEM.



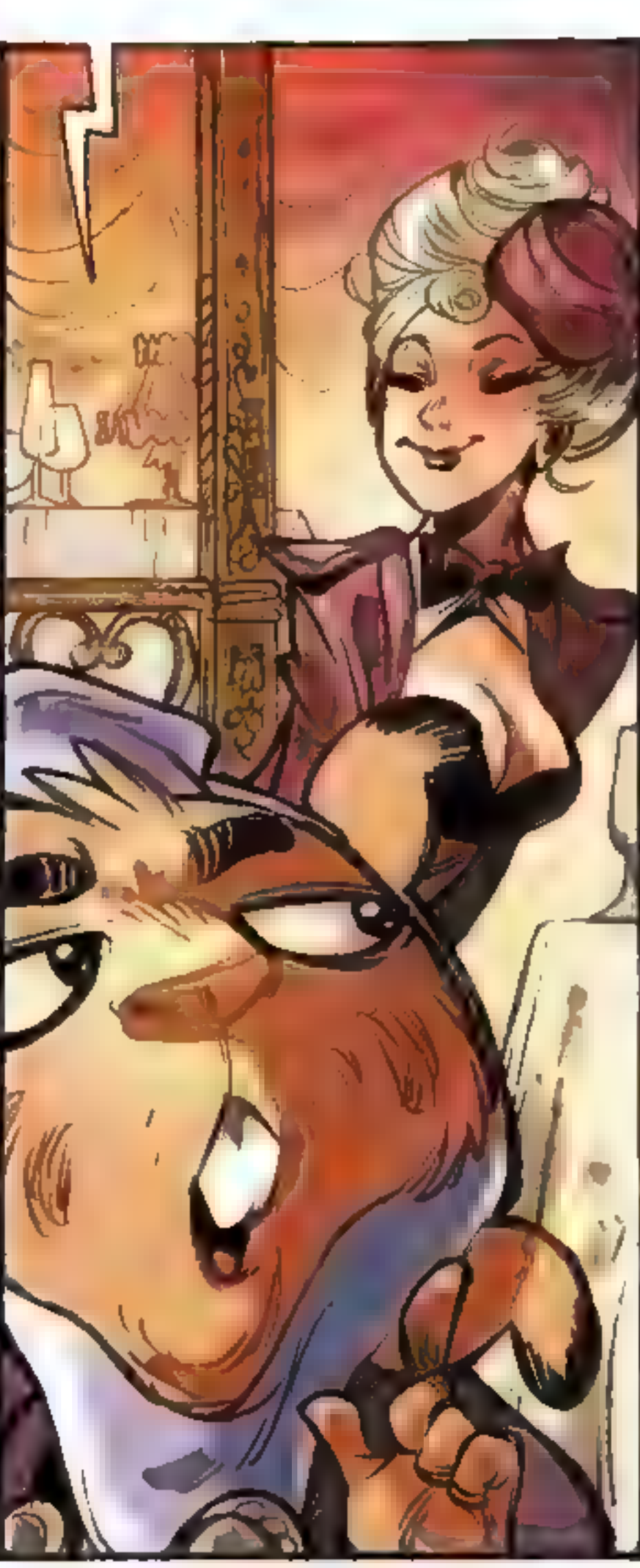
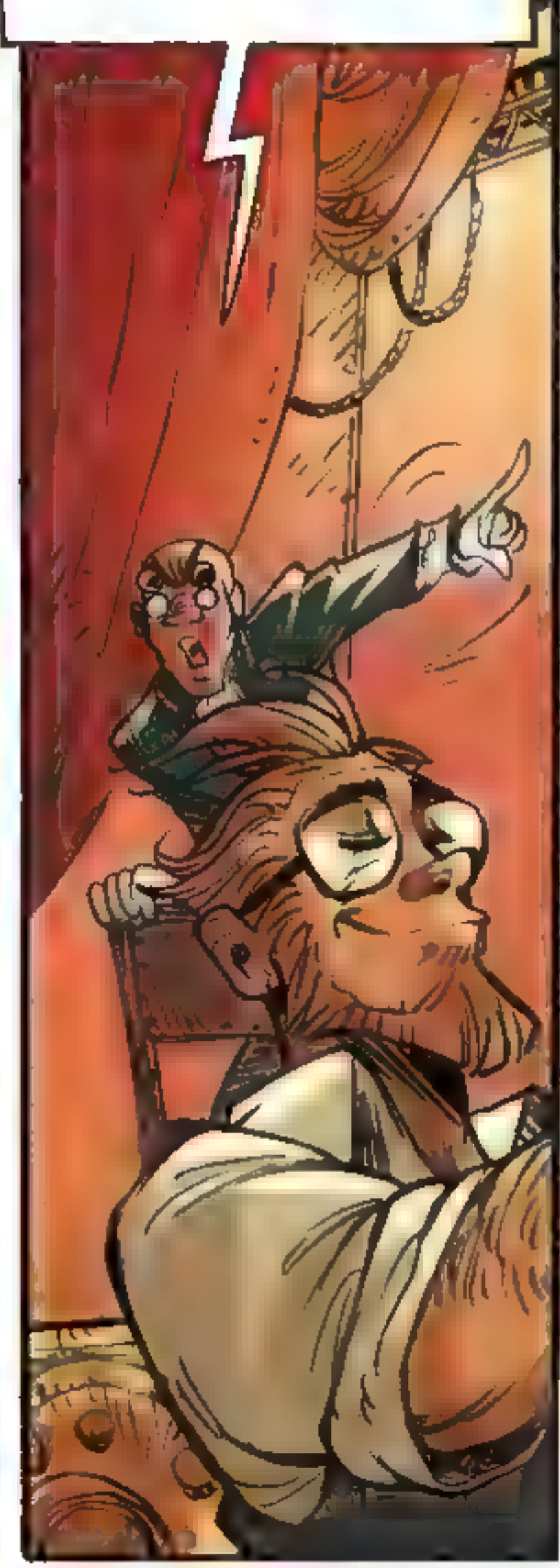
WE'RE GONNA
SHOWER AND
GET DRESSED,
OKAY?



DON'T WORRY,
YOU'LL GET A
SHOW!



SEAT THEM
AND SERVE
CHAMPAGNE.

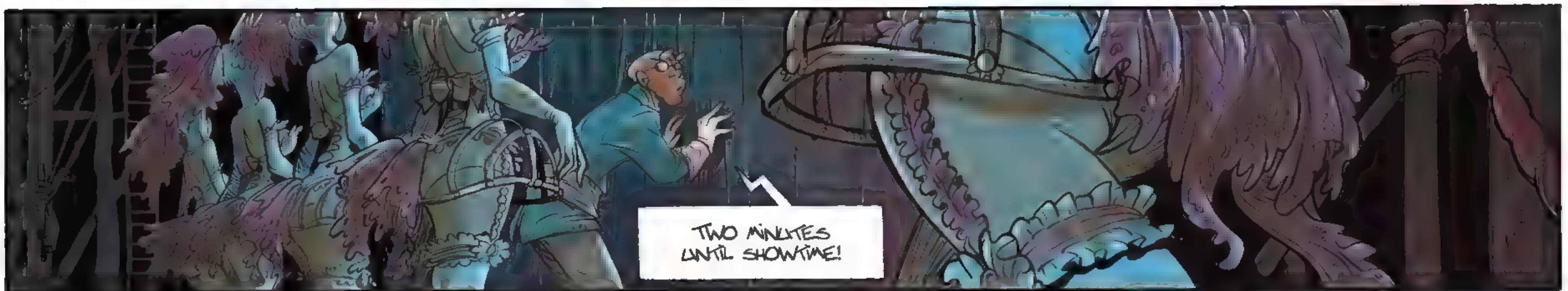




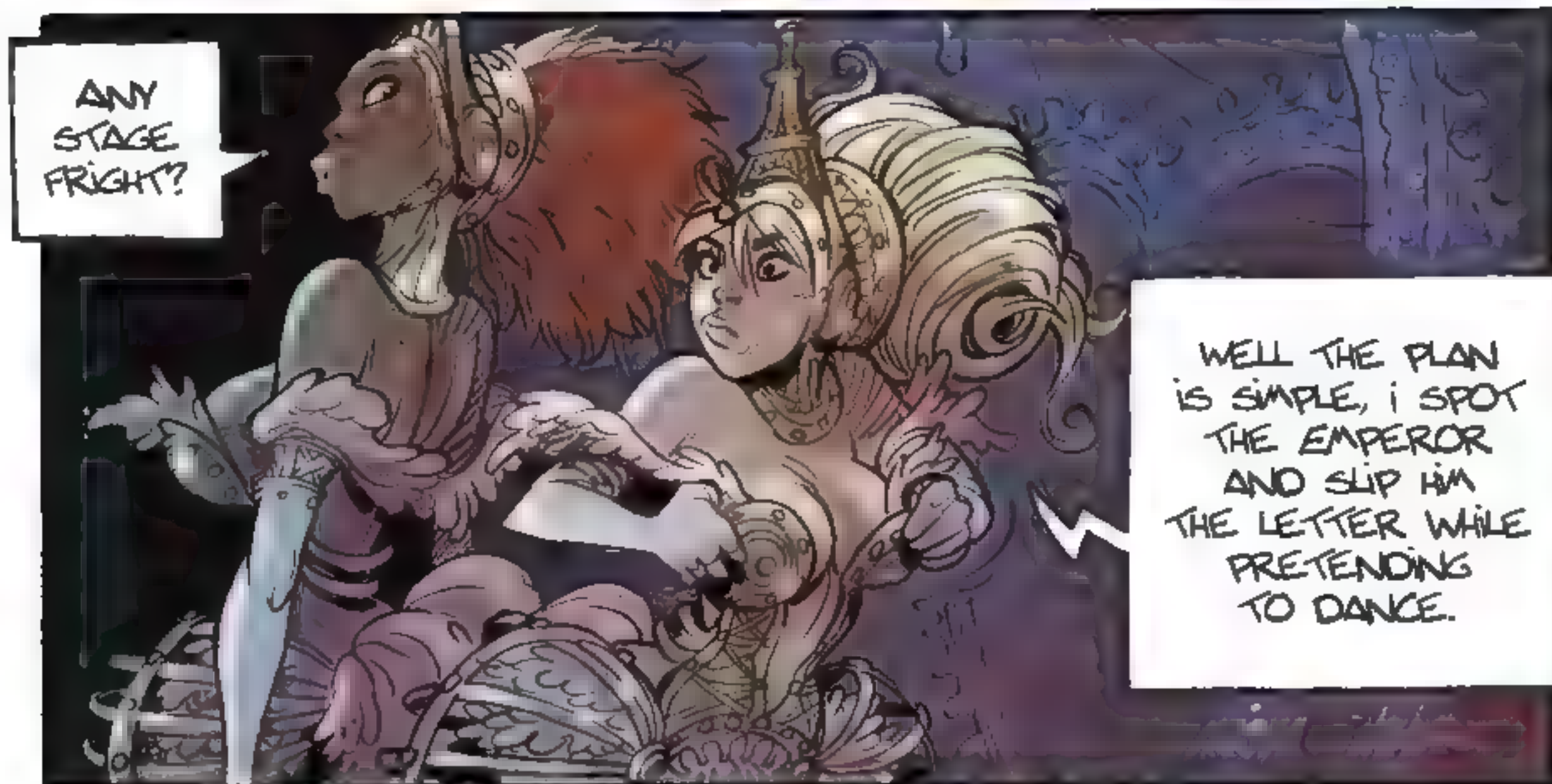
I HOPE YOU'VE
SPARED NO
EXPENSE,
EUGENE.

DON'T WORRY,
FATHER.
THE EMPRE'S
ELITE ARE
HERE TONIGHT...

AND MY PROGRAM WILL
MAKE YOU JUMP WITH JOY.

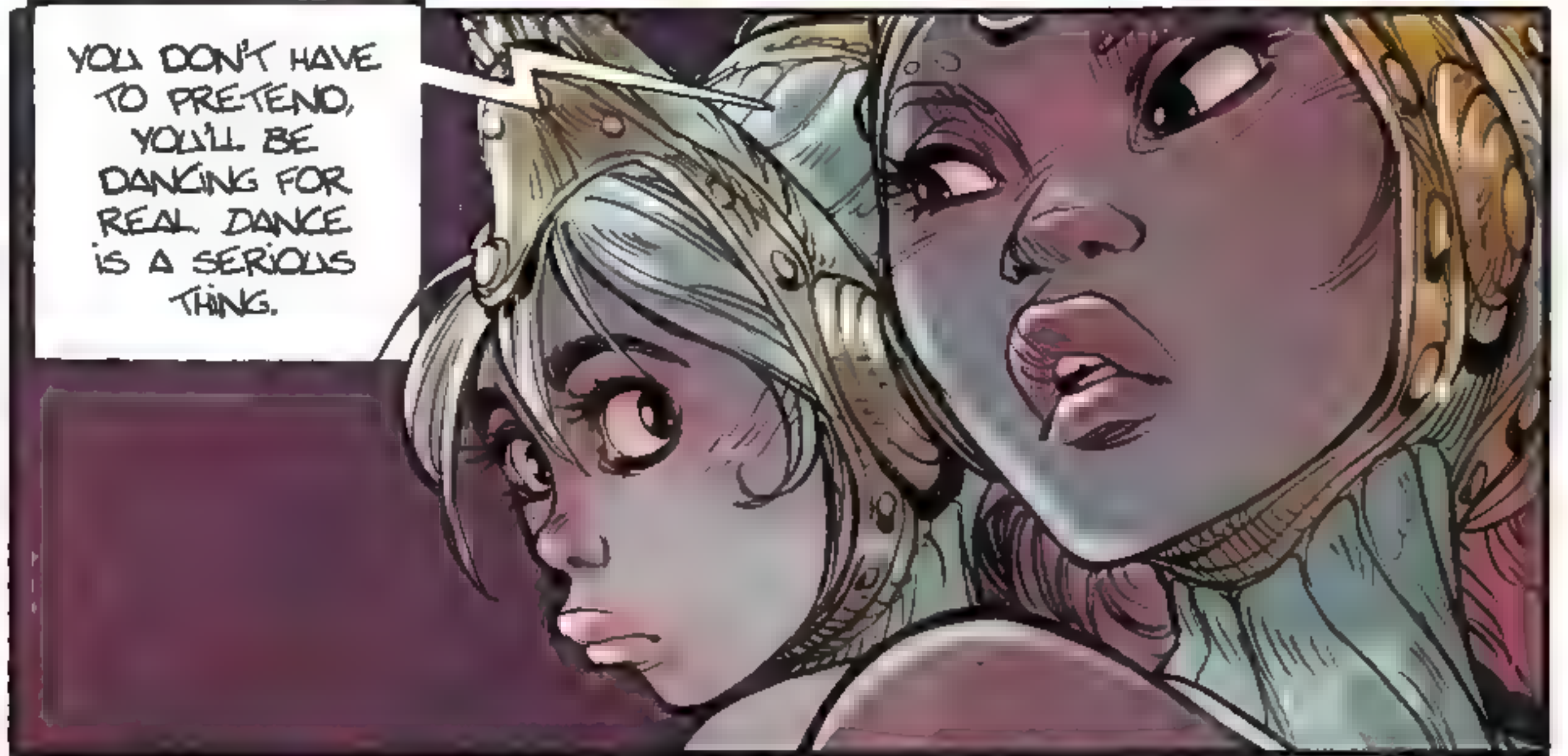


TWO MINUTES
UNTIL SHOWTIME!

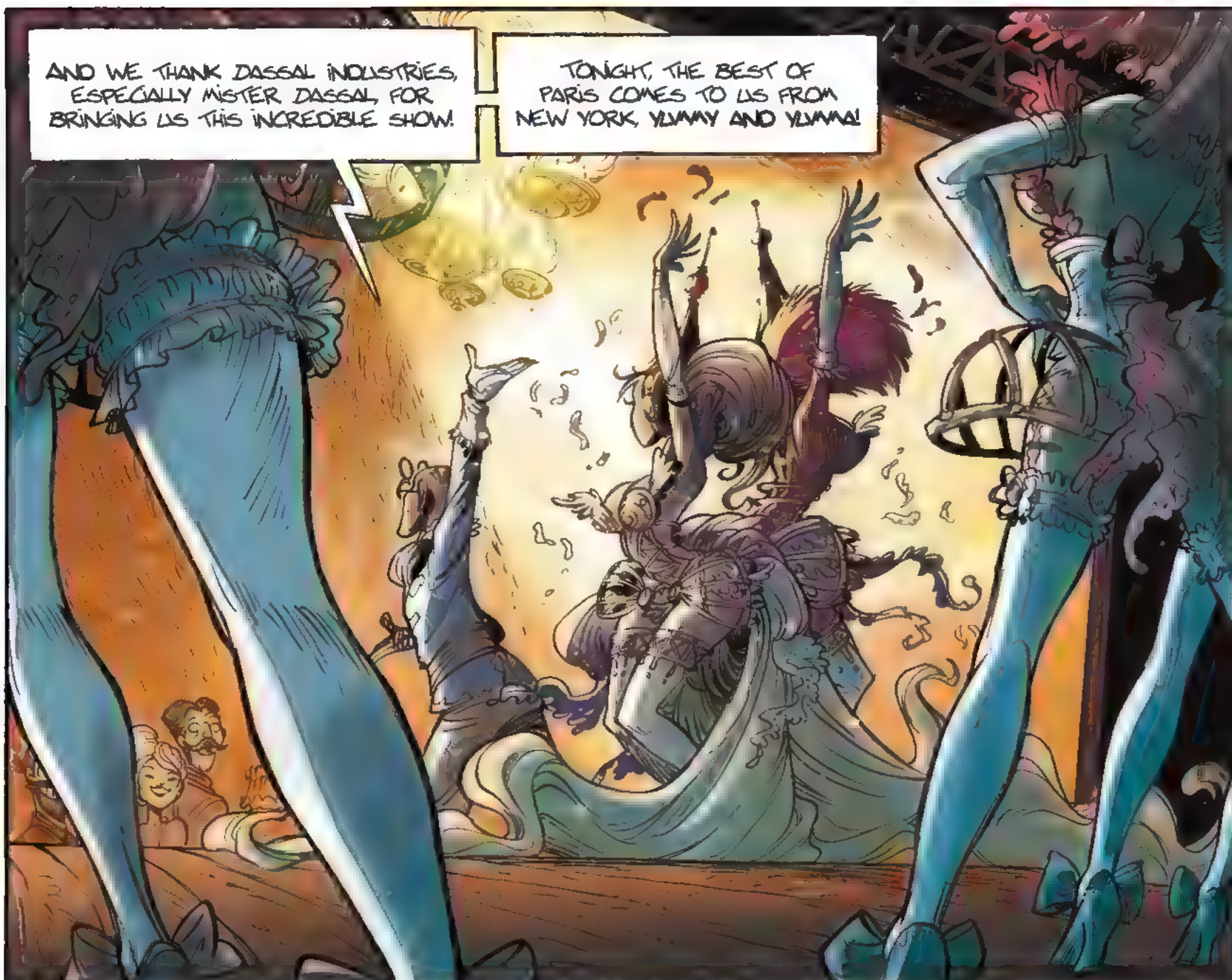


ANY
STAGE
FRIGHT?

WELL THE PLAN
IS SIMPLE, I SPOT
THE EMPEROR
AND SLIP HIM
THE LETTER WHILE
PRETENDING
TO DANCE.

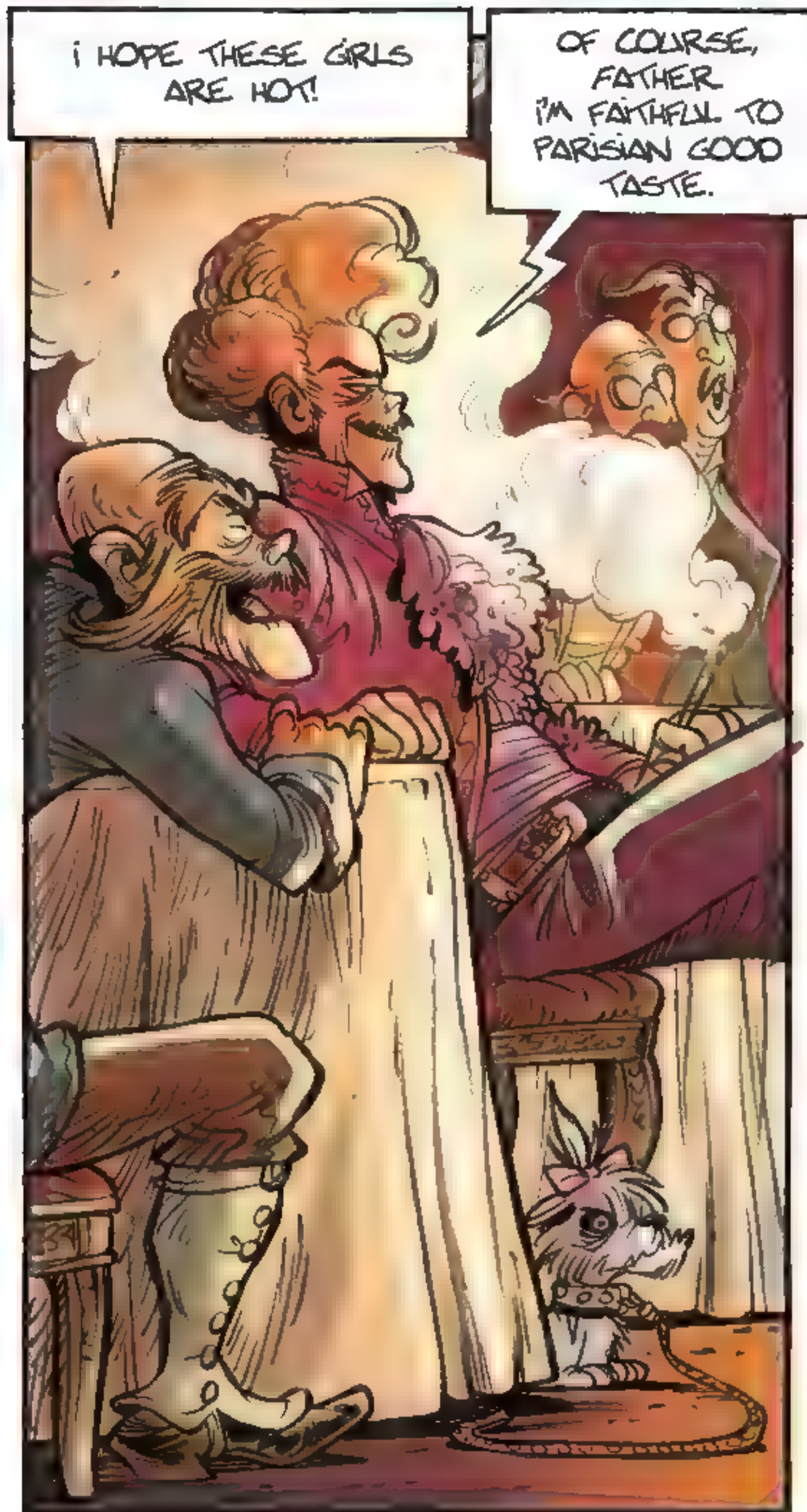


YOU DON'T HAVE
TO PRETEND.
YOU'LL BE
DANCING FOR
REAL. DANCE
IS A SERIOUS
THING.



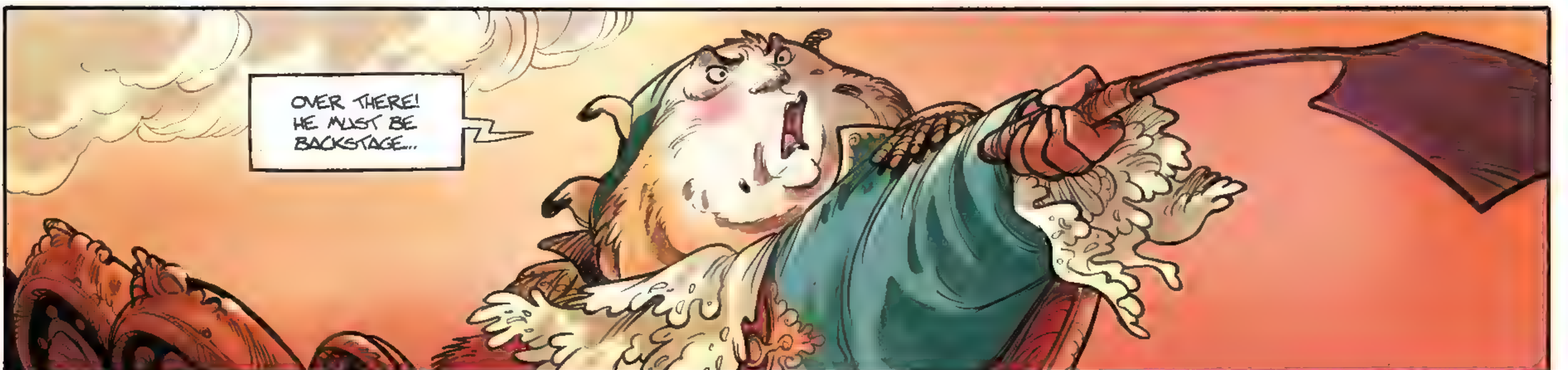
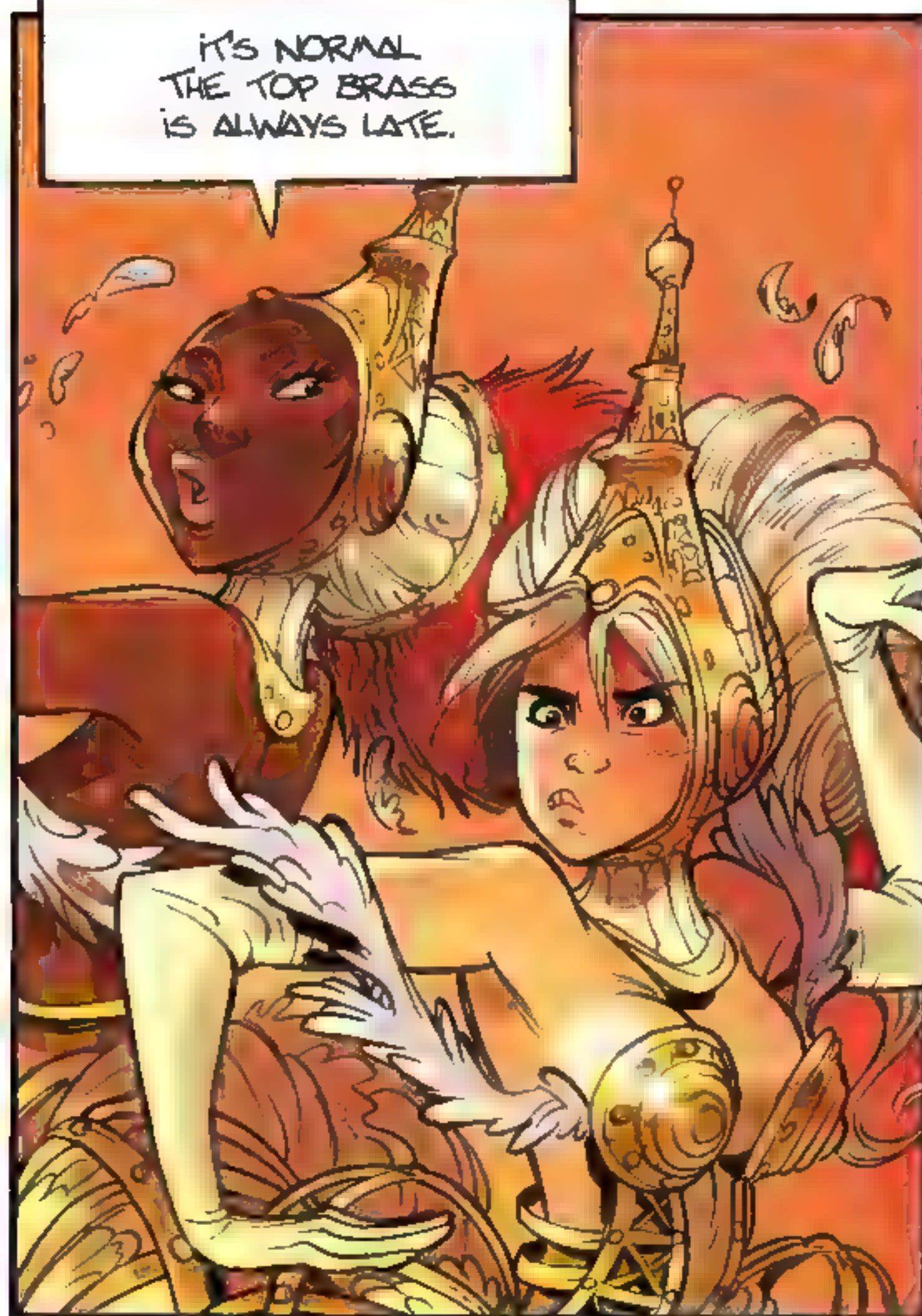
AND WE THANK DASSAL INDUSTRIES,
ESPECIALLY MISTER DASSAL, FOR
BRINGING US THIS INCREDIBLE SHOW.

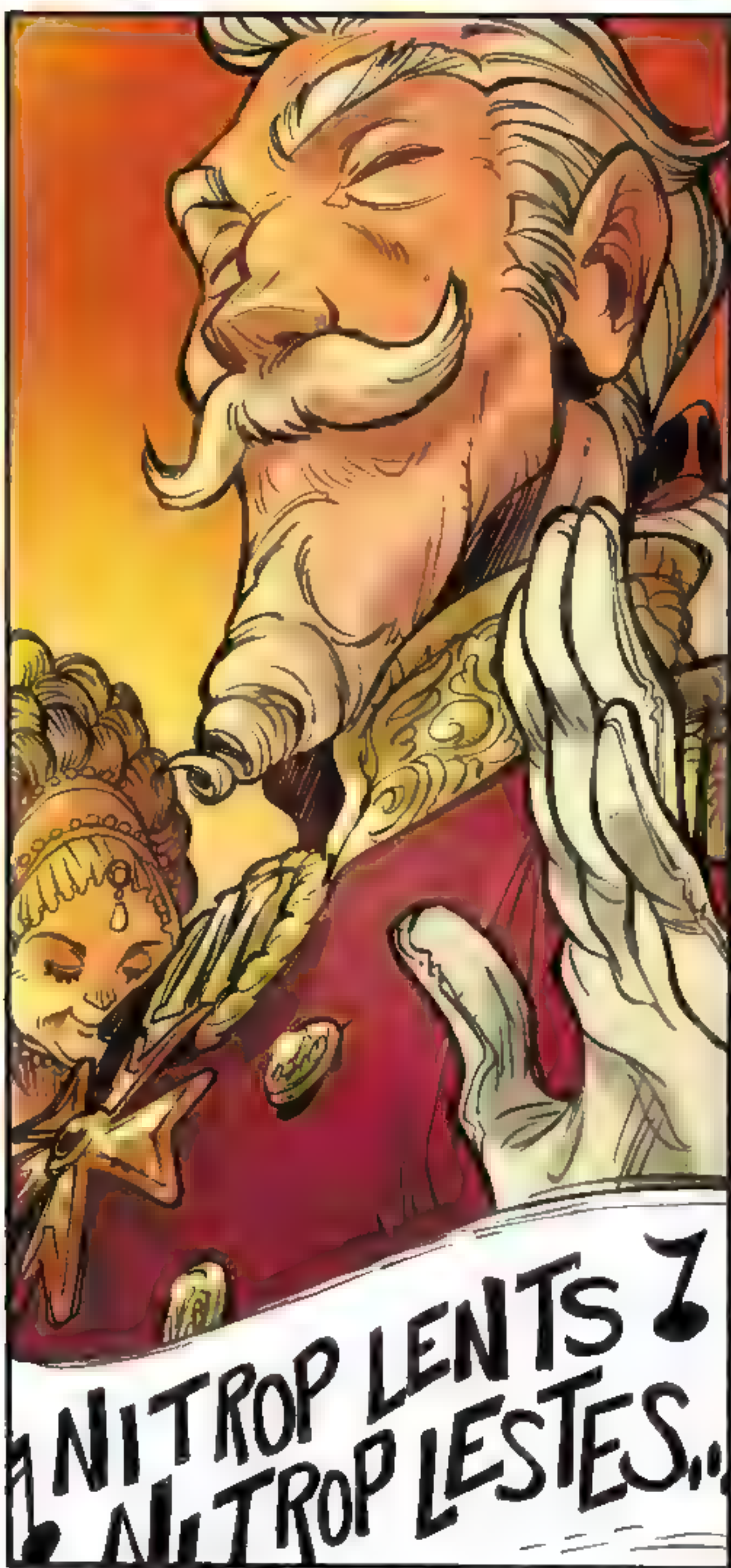
TONIGHT, THE BEST OF
PARIS COMES TO US FROM
NEW YORK, YUMMY AND YUMMY!

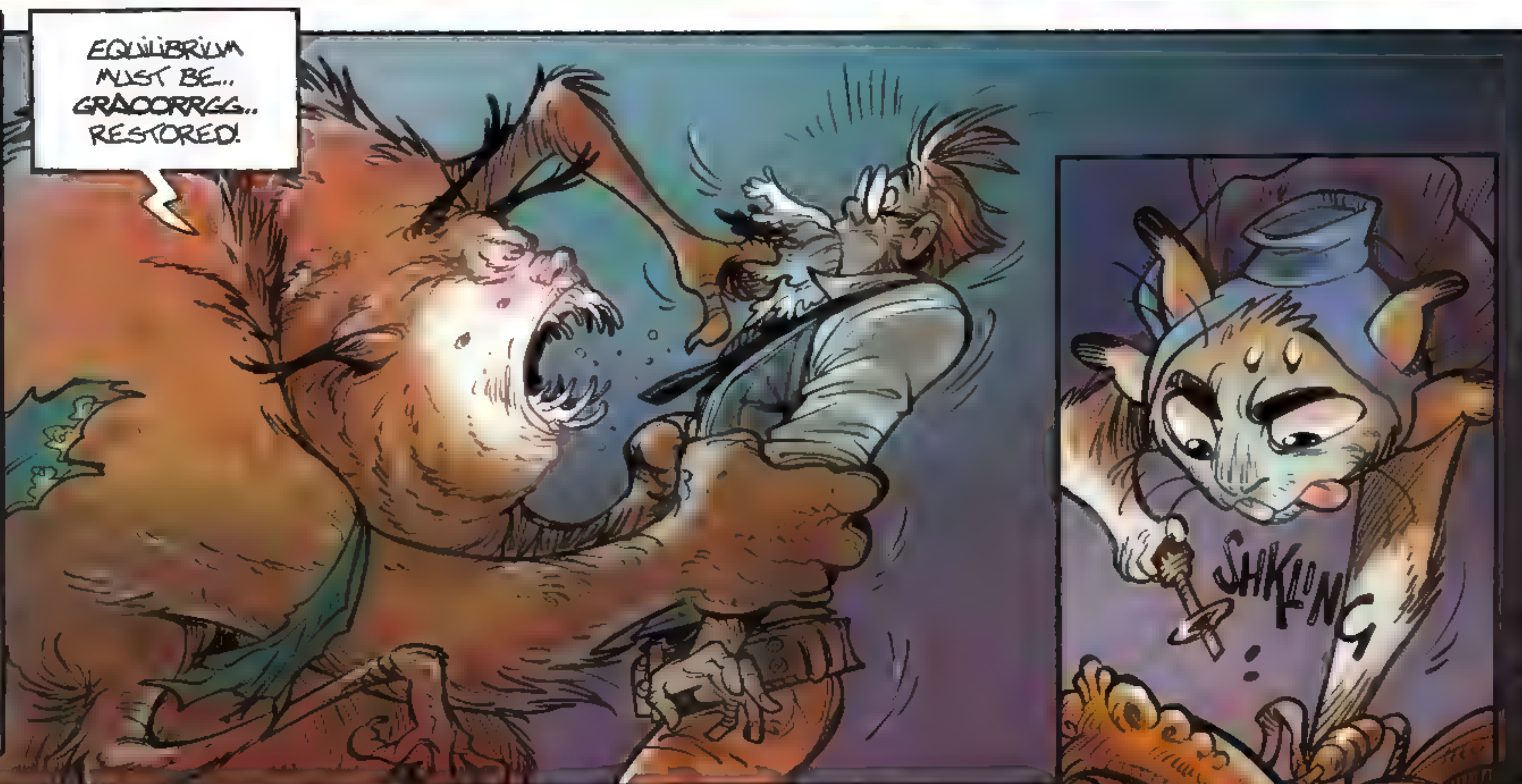
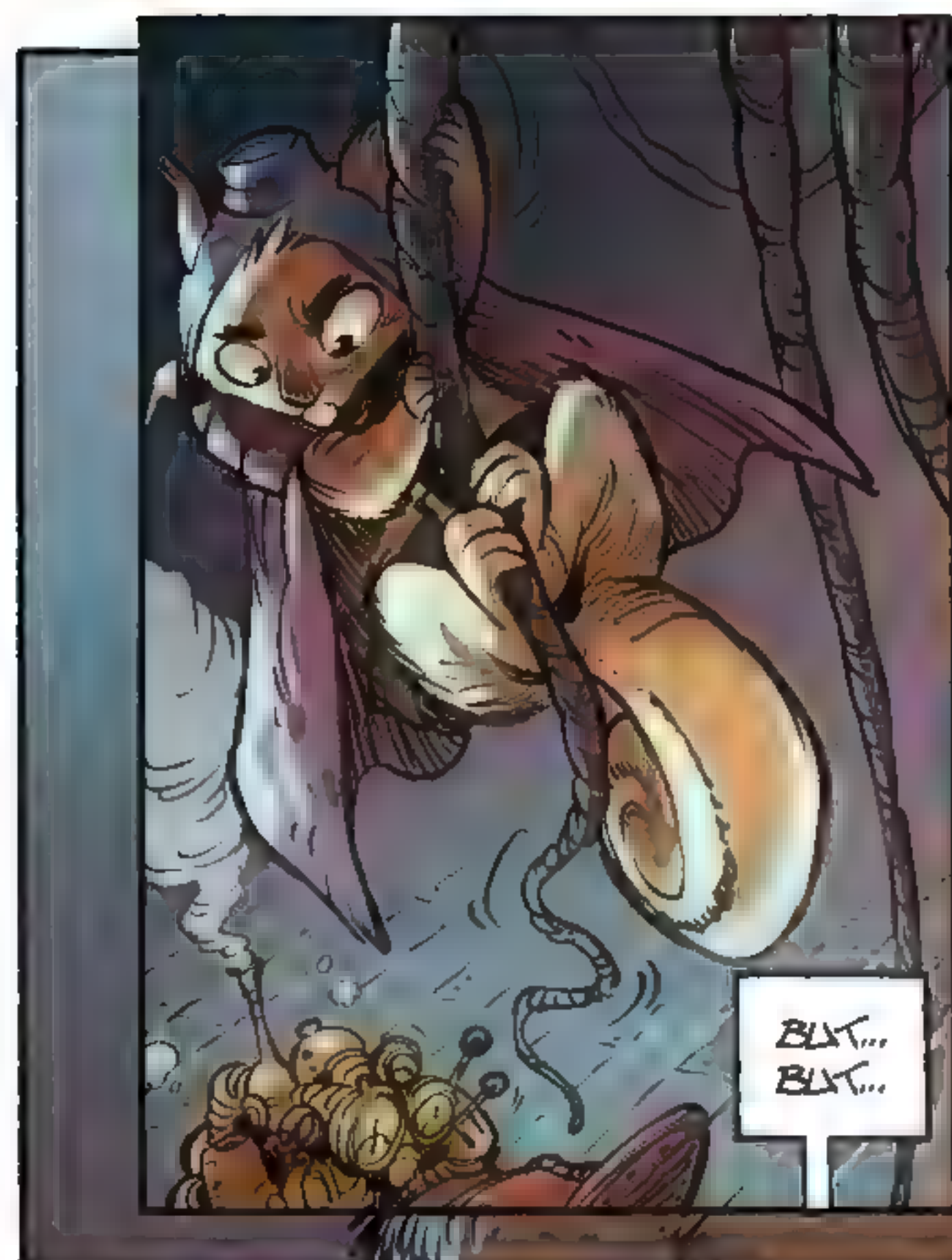
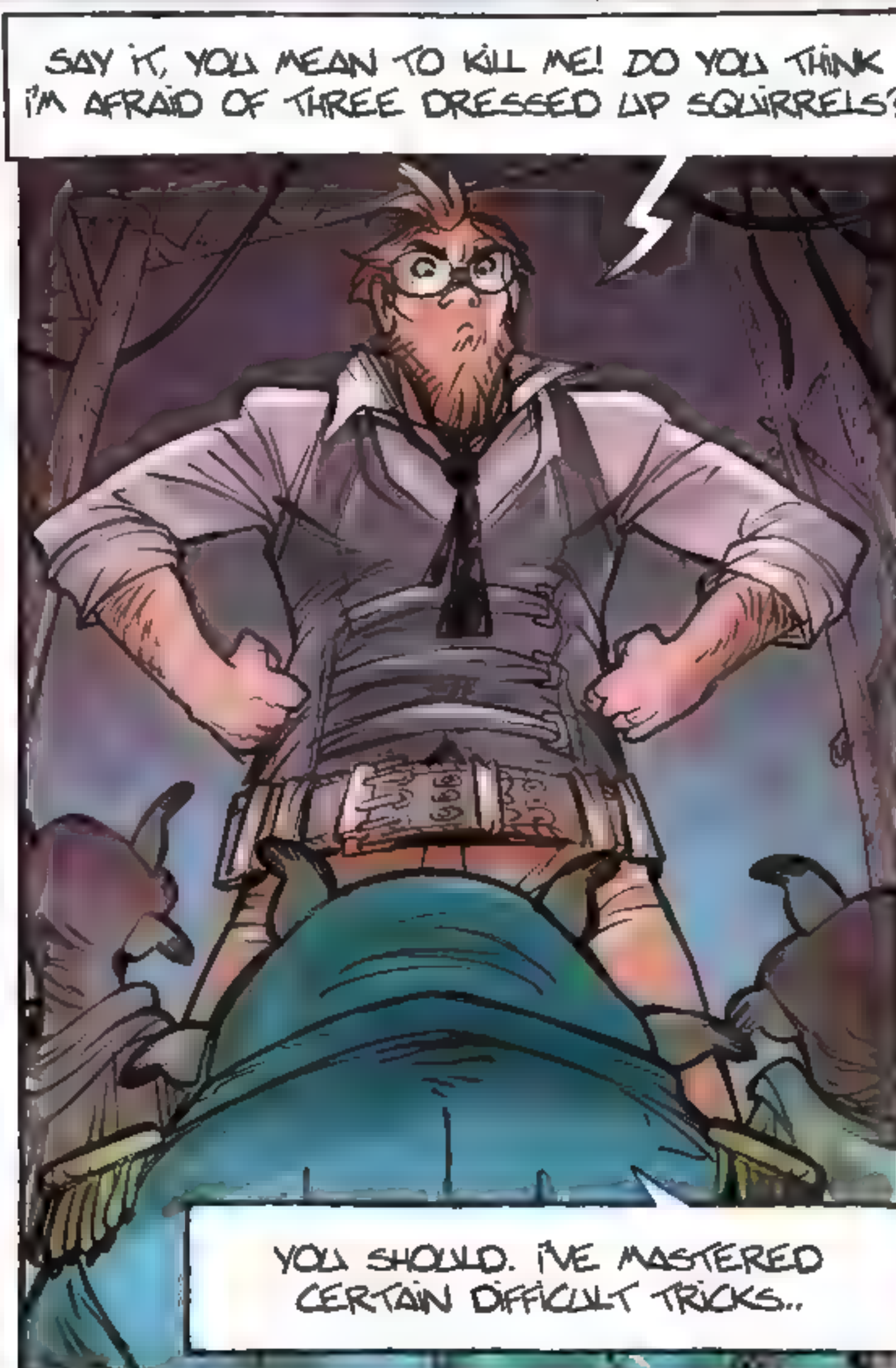
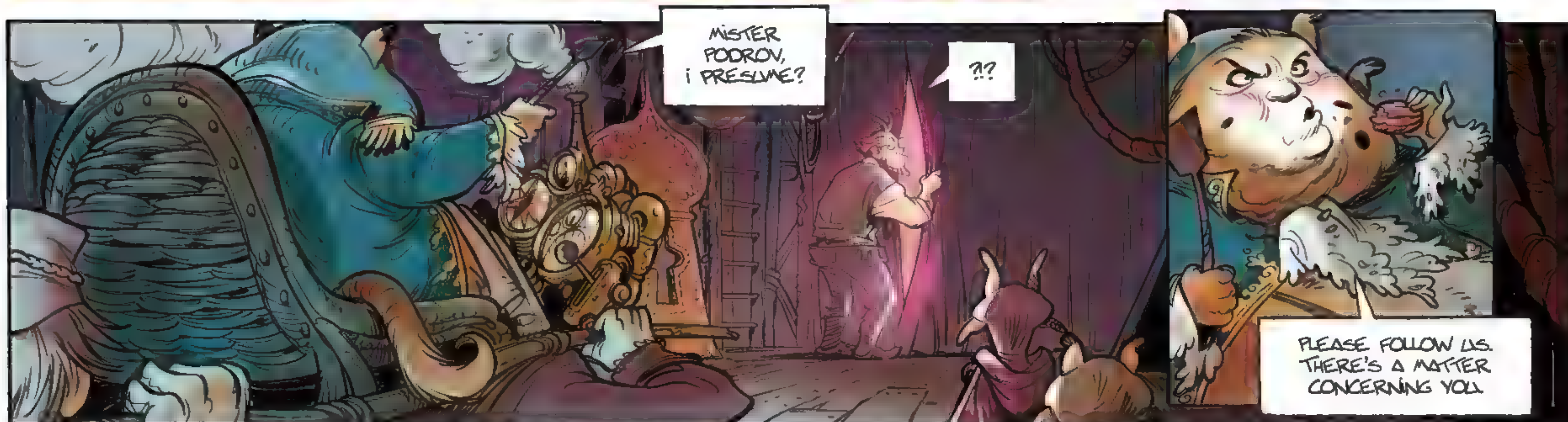
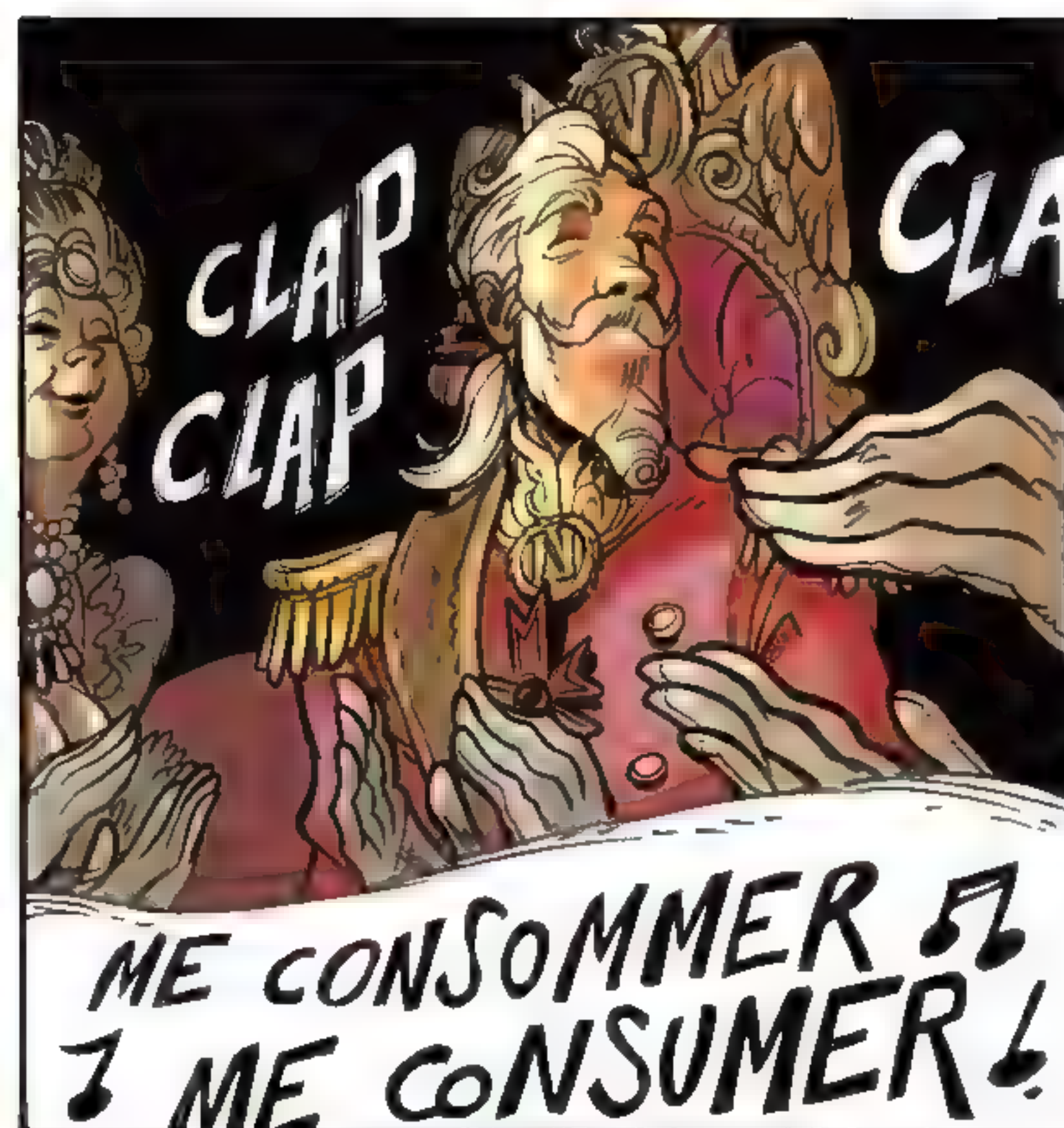


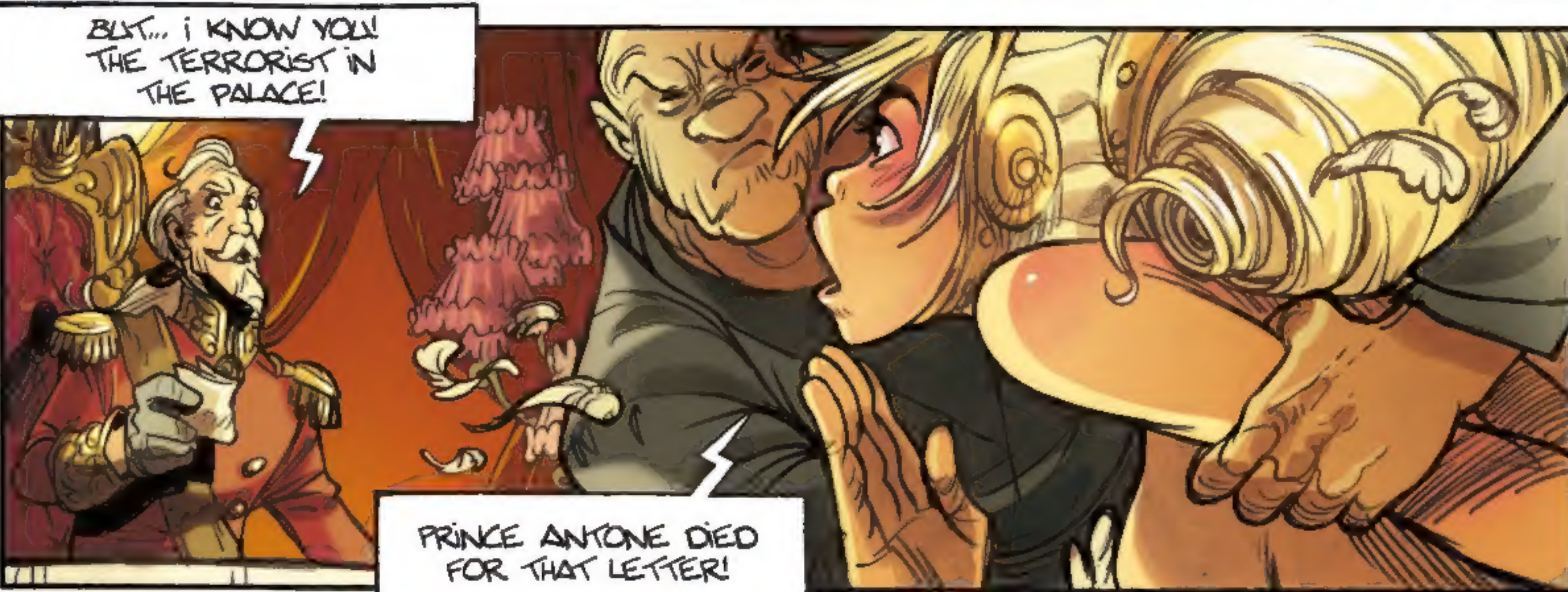
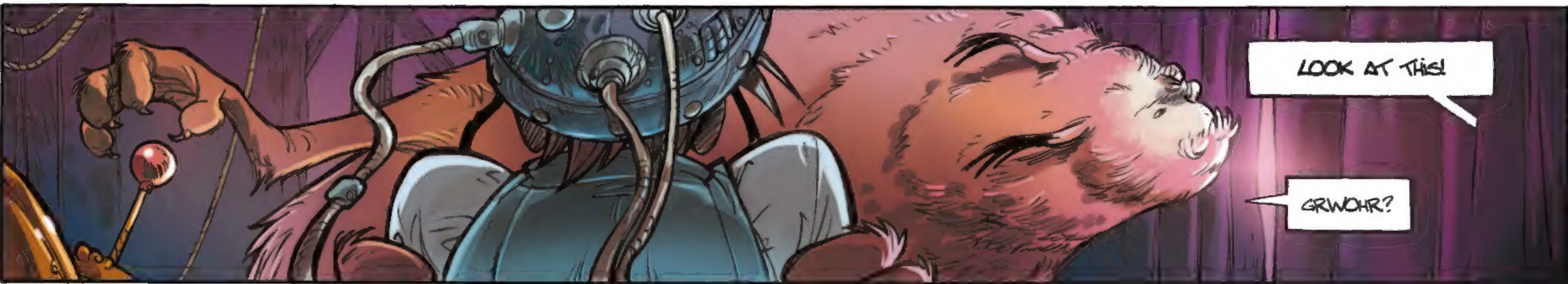
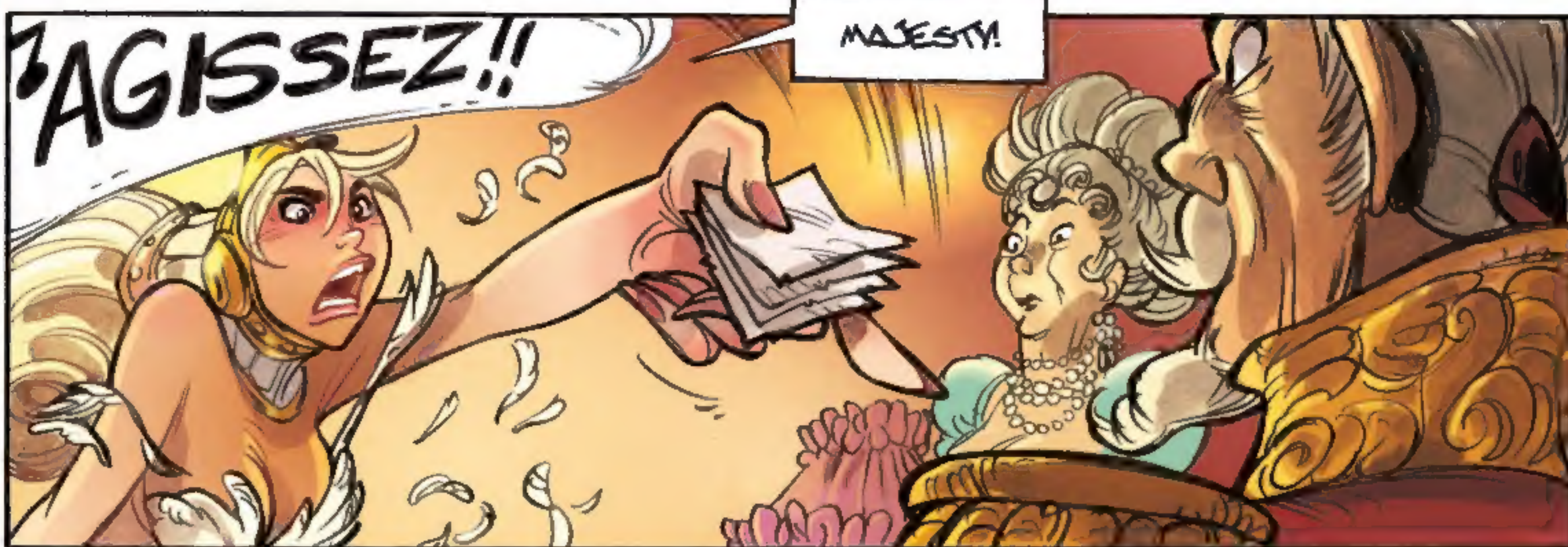
I HOPE THESE GIRLS
ARE HOT!

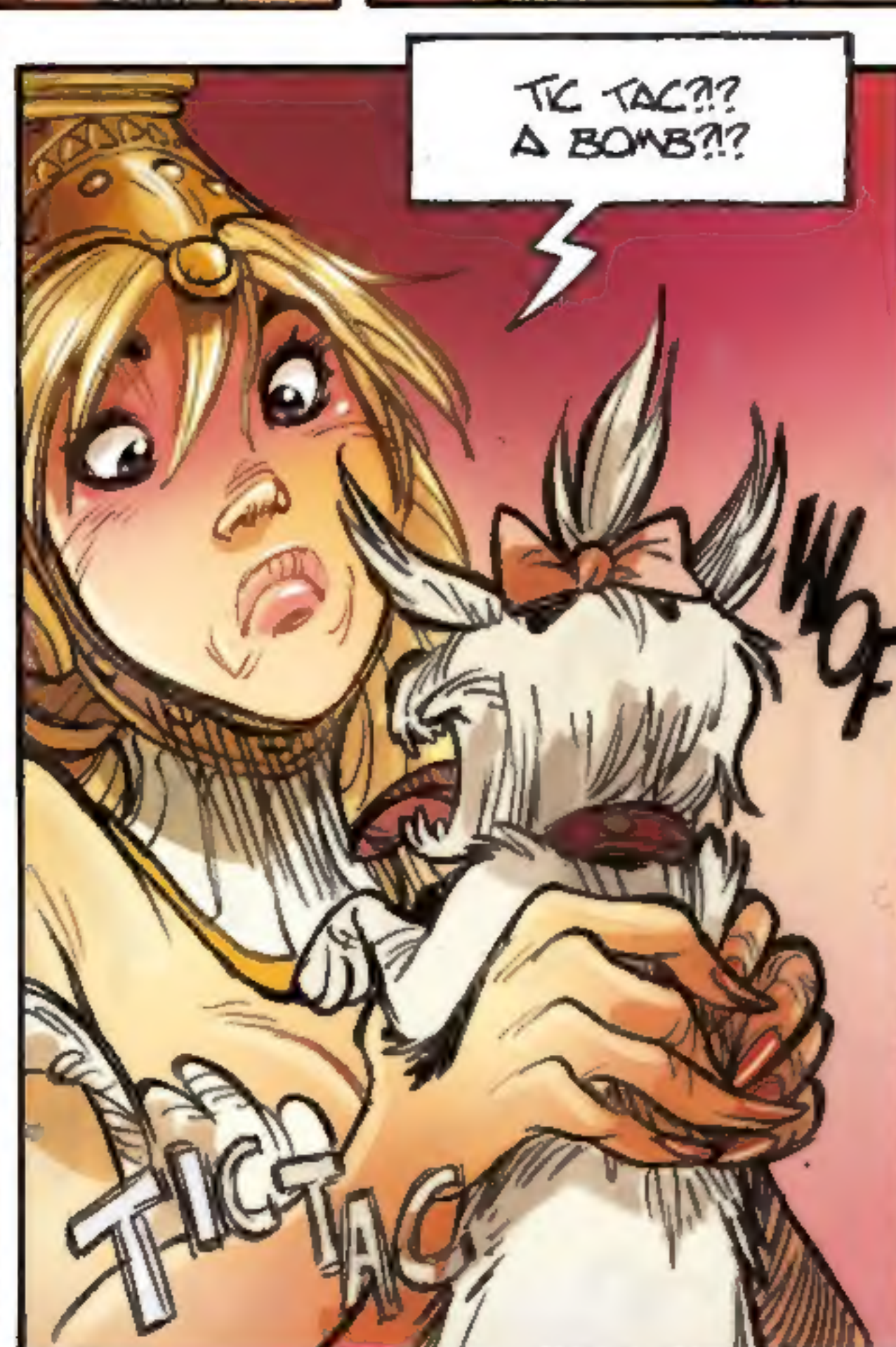
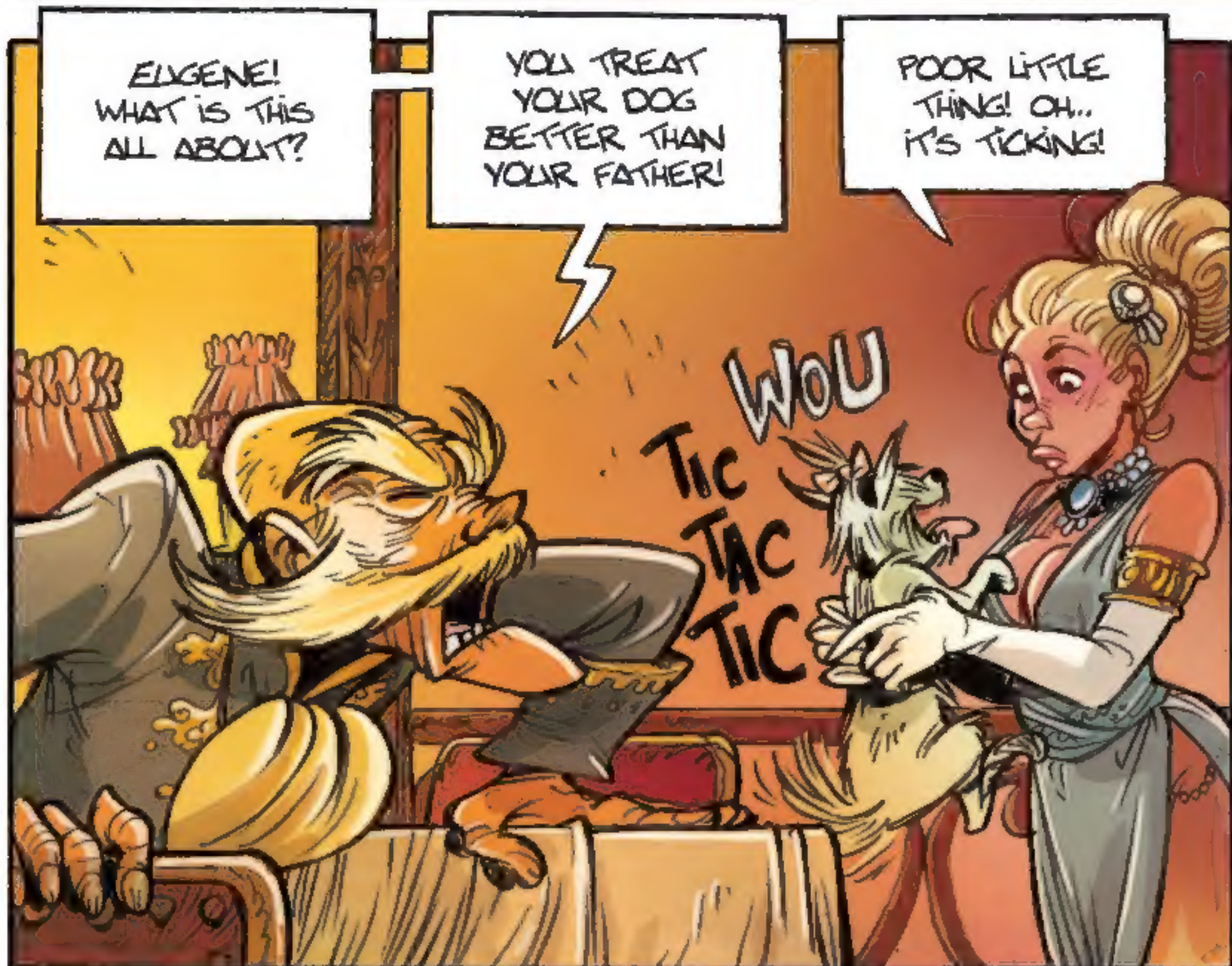
OF COURSE,
FATHER.
I'M FAITHFUL TO
PARISIAN GOOD
TASTE.











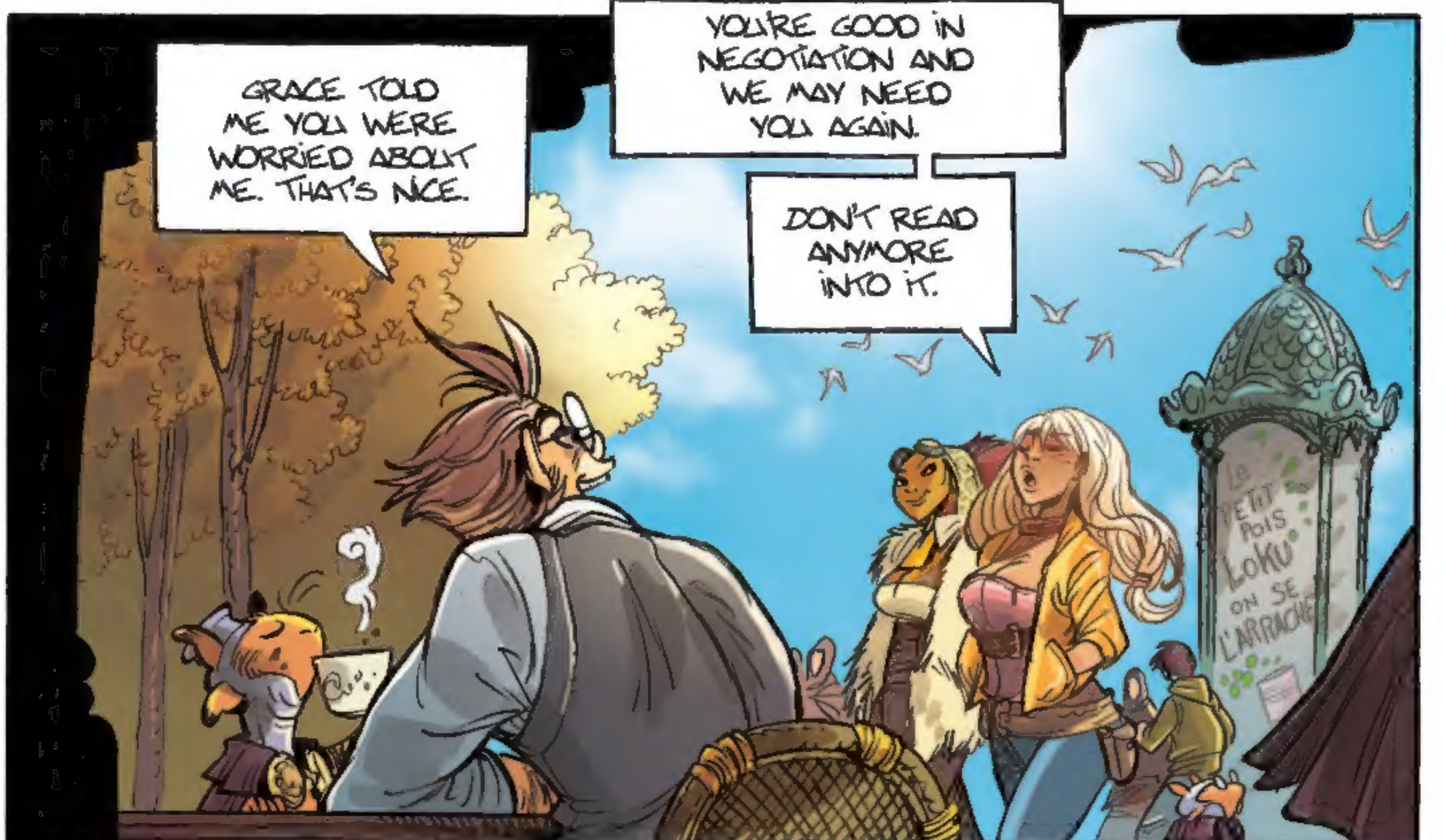


I CAN'T SAY IF MY PERFORMANCE WAS TRULY APPRECIATED THAT NIGHT, BUT OUR FINANCES WERE HEALTHIER.

I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF I DON'T PREFER THIS PARIS...



MUCH LESS CLOTHING SHOPS AND FAR MORE BOOKSTORES!



GRACE TOLD ME YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME. THAT'S NICE.

YOU'RE GOOD IN NEGOTIATION AND WE MAY NEED YOU AGAIN.

DON'T READ ANYMORE INTO IT.



ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, OR NOT, IN THE BEDROOM.

LET'S FORGET ABOUT IT.

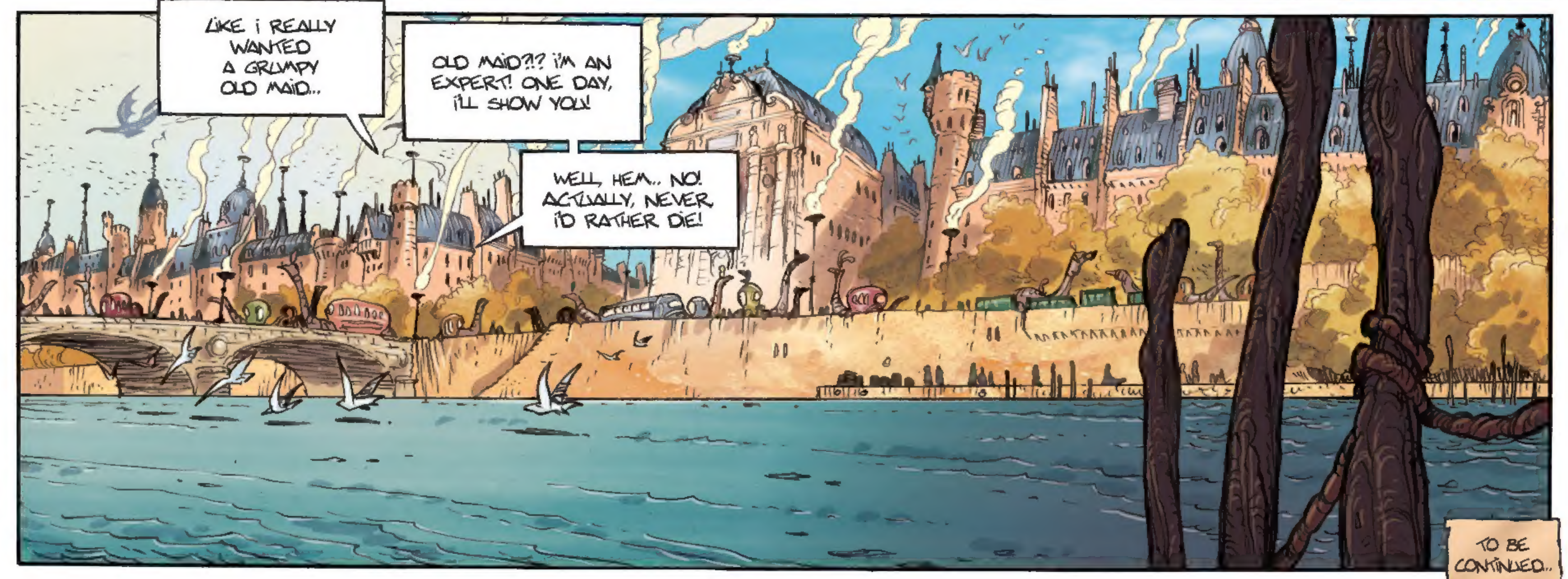


I THINK YOU WERE AFRAID.



AFRAID? ME? I WASN'T INSPIRED, THAT'S ALL!

YOU'RE NOT AS ATTRACTIVE AS YOU THINK YOU ARE!



LIKE I REALLY WANTED A GRUMPY OLD MAID...

OLD MAID??? I'M AN EXPERT! ONE DAY, I'LL SHOW YOU!

WELL, HEM... NO! ACTUALLY, NEVER I'D RATHER DIE!

TO BE CONTINUED...